United Nations A/68/183

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Item 23 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/224 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017). It examines progress and challenges to poverty eradication and discusses policy priorities. The report also reviews the latest activities to implement the United Nations system-wide Plan of Action for the Second Decade, and concludes with a number of recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

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13-40632 (E) 150813

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I. Introduction

1. Poverty eradication is the central objective of development, as reflected in the Millennium Development Goal to halve global extreme poverty by 2015. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) seeks to support the efforts to achieve this goal with the theme "Full employment and decent work for all". There are less than 1,000 days remaining before the 2015 target date, so it is particularly critical to accelerate progress in regions that are lagging behind.

2. The present report focuses on progress and challenges as well as main policy measures to reduce poverty, and provides an overview of recent activities undertaken by the United Nations agencies to implement the system-wide Plan of Action for the Second Decade.

II. Current progress in poverty eradication

3. The selection of "Full employment and decent work for all" as the mission of the Second Decade underscored the recognition that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that extends beyond income poverty and reflects both lack of opportunity and capability. This manifests itself in the decent work deficit; pervasive hunger and malnutrition; limited access to health care, social protection, education, water, sanitation, and other basic social services; social exclusion and inequality; and vulnerability to economic shocks, climate change and disasters.

Poverty

4. In the past five years, despite the economic recession and volatility of prices for fuel and food, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty — on less than $1.25 a day — reached new lows in all six developing regions.[1] The newest World Bank Group estimates point out that the global poverty rate fell to 20.6 per cent in 2010, less than half the 1990 rate of 43.1 per cent.[2,3] Thus, the Millennium Development Goals target has been achieved at the global level, five years before the target date. However, progress has been uneven, and there were 1.2 billion people still living on less than $1.25 a day in 2010, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. It is projected that, by 2015, about 970 million people will still be living on less than $1.25 a day in countries classified as low or middle income in 1990.[2,3]

5. Successes in poverty reduction were concentrated in the region of East Asia and the Pacific, with China leading the way. The region's record in poverty reduction has been distinctive. In 1990, it had about 1 billion people living below $1.25 a day (50 per cent of world share) and the highest poverty rate (56 per cent). In 2010, driven by success in China, the region's poverty rate had decreased to 12 per cent and is projected to decline to 6 per cent by 2015.[2,3]

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[1] World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2013* (Washington, D.C., 2013).

[2] Some critics argue that, for methodological reasons, the poverty line based on purchasing power parity misrepresents the prevalence of poverty worldwide.

[3] World Bank and International Monetary Fund, *Global Monitoring Report 2013: Rural-Urban Dynamics and the Millennium Development Goals* (Washington, D.C, 2013).

6. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have yet to reach the poverty target at the regional level. Progress in South Asia has been substantial, with poverty rates falling from 51 per cent in 1990 to 30 per cent two decades later. In contrast, the poverty rate in sub-Saharan Africa fell only 8 percentage points over the same period. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost half of the population live on less than $1.25 a day, and it was the only region in which the number of people living in extreme poverty rose steadily, from 290 million in 1990 to 414 million in 2010, accounting for more than one third of the world's poor. By 2015, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will each constitute about 40 per cent of the developing world population living in extreme poverty.[4]

7. Many people not currently living in poverty confront high risk of becoming poor if faced with job loss, economic shock, climate change or other disaster. While extreme poverty has declined significantly, the share of the world's population that is not poor, but vulnerable to falling into poverty, has increased to about 50 per cent.[3] In addition, globally nearly 8 out of 10 of the working poor live in rural areas[5] and spend a high proportion of their disposable income on food. In rural areas, poverty is often a problem of poor quality of jobs, resulting in low levels of labour productivity.

Hunger

8. Poverty and hunger are inextricably linked. Hunger and malnutrition persist in many parts of the world. According to new estimates, for the period 2010 to 2012 nearly 870 million people, one in eight in the world, were chronically hungry. The number of undernourished people declined more sharply than earlier estimates since 1990, but with the global economic crisis, progress has slowed.[6]

9. As a result of more rapid progress in reducing hunger, at least until the economic crisis, the developing world is much closer to reaching the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the percentage of people suffering from hunger.[7] The global number of people enduring hunger declined by 132 million between 1990 and 1992 and 2010 and 2012 or from 18.6 per cent to 12.5 of the world's population, and from 23.2 per cent to 14.9 per cent in developing countries. If the trend in average annual decline of the past 20 years were to continue on to 2015, the global target of 11.6 per cent would be within reach.

10. There are significant disparities between regions and some countries have moved further away from the Goals. In Asia and the Pacific, the undernourished population over the past 20 years decreased from 739 million people to 563 million, owing to socioeconomic progress in many countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the number of people enduring hunger fell from 65 million to 49 million over the same period. Given the reduction in both the number and proportion of undernourished, those two regions are roughly on track to reach the Goals. In Africa, by contrast, the number increased from 175 million to 239 million over the

[4] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.I.19).

[5] International Labour Organization, *Global Employment Trends 2012: Preventing a deeper job crisis* (Geneva, 2012).

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, thirty-eighth session of FAO Conference, "The State of Food and Agriculture" (C/2013/2).

[7] FAO, *State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012*.

period, with 20 million added in the past four years. The target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger will not be met in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.[8] Behind these regional disparities are different levels of vulnerability and capacity to deal with economic shocks, such as food price increases and economic recessions.

11. Volatile food prices and the global economic crisis of 2007-2009 have slowed down progress in hunger reduction. International food prices, while down slightly from their 2011 peak, still remain well above historical averages, and continue to have the worst impact on the poorest. In sub-Saharan Africa, modest progress up to 2007 was reversed, with hunger increasing 2 per cent per year.

III. Challenges to poverty eradication

12. High unemployment, widening inequality and climate change have remained key challenges for many countries. These ongoing challenges continue to be aggravated by the subdued pace of recovery of the global economy and the contraction in the euro area. As many developed and developing countries have been trying to address high levels of indebtedness, austerity measures targeting public expenditure have threatened to exacerbate the situation.

Unemployment

13. Employment and decent work are key drivers of poverty reduction. The recent global crisis and the weakening of the global recovery have markedly worsened the employment situation. Global unemployment has increased by 28 million people since the crisis, reaching a total of 200 million people in 2012, a disproportionate share of whom are youth. Another 5.1 million people are expected to join the jobless ranks in 2013. Moreover, some 39 million people have dropped out of the labour market, leaving a 67 million global jobs gap since 2007.[9]

14. The job challenge differs across regions. Unemployment has been stubbornly high in developed countries. In the euro area, unemployment has actually risen. The average unemployment rate in the euro area reached a new, all-time high of 12.1 per cent in March 2013, and long-term unemployment has become a structural problem for many European countries.[10] Developed countries and the European Union region, although accounting for less than 16 per cent of the global workforce, have contributed to more than half of the total global increase in unemployment over the past five years.

15. In most developing countries, the impact of the economic crisis on formal employment has been less evident. In parts of East Asia and South America, unemployment rates have actually dropped below the levels seen before the financial crisis. By contrast, employment continues to be a major problem in many African countries, despite strong economic growth in recent years. Developing countries continue to face many structural labour market challenges — such as low

[8] United Nations, *World Economic and Social Survey 2013: Sustainable Development Challenges.*

[9] See International Labour Organization, *Global Employment Trends 2013: Recovering from a second jobs dip* (Geneva, 2013).

[10] *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013* (Update as of mid-2013, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.C.2).

participation rates, particularly among women, high youth unemployment, large informal sectors, low quality of jobs and slow productivity growth. The majority of workers in developing countries remain trapped in jobs with low incomes and lack of basic social protection, which leave them vulnerable to social and economic risks. In 2012, 56 per cent of all workers in the developing world, or 1.49 billion people, were in vulnerable employment.

16. The number of working poor has continued to decline, although at a slower pace than before the crisis. According to recent estimates, about 870 million workers were still living with their families on less than US$ 2 per day, of which nearly 400 million were living in extreme poverty. In addition, some 660 million workers were living just above the poverty line and were highly vulnerable to any economic shock. It is projected that the absolute number of working poor will decline only gradually, unless faster economic growth returns.[9]

17. Unemployment among young people has continued to increase in many countries. In 2012, the youth unemployment rate exceeded 15 per cent in two thirds of developed countries, with peaks of over 50 per cent in Greece and Spain. In 2013, 73 million young people are unemployed globally, and the slowdown in economic activity is likely to push another half a million into unemployment in 2014.[11] Long-term unemployment poses a particular challenge, with many having been out of work for six months or more.

18. Young people in developing countries (90 per cent of the global total) also face employment challenges. Youth unemployment is the highest in the Middle East and North Africa, where more than one in five economically active young people are unemployed. The lowest youth unemployment rates, between 9 and 11 per cent, are in South Asia, East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, owing largely to higher levels of poverty.[11] The critical challenge for youth in developing countries is the high number of those engaged in irregular work and remaining outside the educational system. Research based on a new set of school-to-work transition surveys showed that, in 6 of the 10 developing countries surveyed, over 60 per cent of young people were part of the underutilized labour force, neither in regular employment nor in school.[11]

Inequality

19. In the last 30 years, inequality has worsened within many countries. Growing inequality jeopardizes progress towards poverty eradication and social stability. Situations where the poor are excluded from economic growth, or trapped in low-productivity jobs, result in the gains from growth going disproportionately to those already better off. Inequality is not a matter only for those at the bottom. High inequality is associated with shorter growth episodes, and is an obstacle to economic development. Highly unequal countries tend to grow more slowly than those with low income inequality, to be less successful in sustaining economic growth, and to recover more slowly from economic downturns.[12] In fact, no country has moved beyond middle-income status while maintaining high levels of inequality.[13]

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[11] See ILO, *Global Employment Trends for Youth: A generation at risk* (Geneva, 2013).

[12] Andrew G. Berg and Jonathan D. Ostry, *Inequality and Unsustainable Growth: Two Sides of the Same Coin?*, *IMF Staff Discussion Note* (Washington, D.C., 8 April 2011).

[13] See footnote 1.

20. Income inequality has increased in the majority of countries over the past 30 years. About two thirds of the countries for which data were available experienced an increase in income inequality between 1990 and 2005, despite globally robust economic growth.[14] Similarly, the income gap between the wealthiest and the poorest 10 per cent of income earners increased in 70 per cent of the countries.[15] There were large differences in mean income across countries, which accounted for two thirds of global income inequality.[16] Global wealth was highly concentrated, as the richest 1 per cent of the world's population owned 40 per cent of global assets, while the bottom half held just 1 per cent.

21. Gender-based inequality in income remained. Despite the narrowing of gender-based disparities in school enrolment, the average shortfall of women's earnings compared to men's was 22.9 per cent in 2008-2009. This showed little progress over the gap of 26.2 per cent in 1995. At this rate, it would take more than 75 years to achieve equal pay for equal work.[17]

22. Disparities in health, education and other dimensions of human development reflect unequal access to basic social services, making it even harder for poor people to break the cycle of poverty. New data showed the persistence of large disparities. For example, in South Asia, between 1995 and 2009, while underweight prevalence among children from the richest 20 per cent of households decreased by almost one third, almost no improvement was seen among children in the poorest households.[18]

23. The recent figures highlighted stark rural-urban disparities. For example, in South Asia, only 28 per cent of people living in rural areas have had access to sanitation facilities, compared with 60 per cent in urban areas or settlements. In the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, infant mortality rates in rural areas were 10 to 16 percentage points higher than in urban areas. East Asia has maintained the highest differential, at 21 percentage points.[18] Significant disparity has remained with regard to reductions in maternal mortality. Also, children living in rural areas of developing regions were twice as likely to be underweight than their urban counterparts. Spatial disparity also existed in education, including both enrolment and gender parity.

24. There are important global dimensions to the issue of inequality. Although some poorer countries have been catching up with richer economies, the income levels of richer countries are still much higher. For example, the poorest 5 per cent of people in a rich country such as the United States of America would be richer than two thirds of the people in poor countries. Thus, a person's income, opportunities and standard of living depend largely on citizenship and location.[19]

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[14] Francisco H. G. Ferreira and Martin Ravallion. *Global Poverty and Inequality: a review of the evidence*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4623 (Washington, D.C., 2008).

[15] ILO, International Institute for Labour Studies, *World of Work Report 2008: Income inequalities in the age of financial globalization* (Geneva, 2008).

[16] Branko Milanovic, *Worlds Apart: Measuring International and Global Inequality* (Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 2007).

[17] International Labour Organization, report of the Director General, *A New Era of Social Justice*, International Labour Conference, 100th session (ILO, Geneva, 2011).

[18] See footnote 3.

[19] Branko Milanovic, *The Haves and Have Nots* (Basic Books, New York, 2011).

Climate change

25. Environmental threats are a serious risk to poverty reduction. Poor countries and communities are particularly vulnerable to climate change, degradation of ecosystems and disasters such as prolonged droughts, floods, coastal storms, and changes in agricultural productivity. Climate change is already aggravating chronic environmental threats, and ecosystem losses are increasingly constraining livelihoods for poor people. Poor people experience the severe implications of a polluted environment and lack of clean water and sanitation, and this affects their health negatively. Extreme temperature appears to affect yields of important crops and can pose a threat to food security in many developing countries. Climate change can also worsen the prevalence of hunger through direct negative effects on production and indirect impacts on purchasing power.

26. According to the *2013 Human Development Report*, if environmental conditions should worsen, by 2050 the average Human Development Index could be 8 per cent lower than if environmental conditions followed current trends. Another recent report has suggested that if warming should cause temperatures to rise from 2° C to 4° C across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and South-East Asia, multiple threats from increasing heat waves, sea-level rise, more severe storms, droughts and floods would have serious negative implications for the poorest and most vulnerable.[20] For example, by the 2030s in sub-Saharan Africa, droughts and heat would leave 40 per cent of the land now growing maize unable to support that crop, while rising temperatures could cause major loss of savannah grasslands, threatening pastoral livelihoods. Depending on the subregion, that could mean stark increases in the proportion of the population undernourished by 2050. Therefore, promoting economic growth and the eradication of poverty and inequality will be an increasingly challenging task under future climate change conditions.

IV. Policy priorities

27. In order to overcome the challenges to poverty eradication, Governments need to develop and implement policies that create social and economic opportunity for all, promoting low-carbon and sustainable solutions to employment creation, inequality, and economic instability.

Global goals

28. The Millennium Development Goals made poverty reduction a policy priority for every country, and the core objective of development at the global level. This momentum needs to be sustained. States Members of the United Nations have initiated and supported various platforms for dialogue aimed at creating effective guidelines for development policy post-2015.

29. In response to requests from Member States (see General Assembly resolution 65/1, para. 81), the Secretary-General has set up a number of complementary mechanisms, including the United Nations System Task Team, comprising about 60 United Nations agencies; the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons; and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, each combining different research and

[20] The World Bank, *Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience* (Washington, D.C., 2013).

practical expertise to approach the question of a post-2015 development agenda. In that connection, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 initiated an inclusive intergovernmental process to develop a set of sustainable development goals. An Open Working Group of the General Assembly is working closely with the United Nations System Task Team to formulate a proposal on sustainable development goals to be presented at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Other related initiatives have also been under way both within and outside the United Nations system. Together these different tracks aim at arriving at a universal, global post-2015 development agenda that is applicable to all countries.

30. Ensuring that poverty is even more effectively addressed, post-2015 means increased attention to stark social and economic inequalities. Policies would need to reach consistently excluded groups in society. The report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda set out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. The road map calls for transformative changes through ending poverty in all its forms, putting sustainable development at the core, transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth, building effective institutions, and building a new global partnership. The report recommends that social justice should stand at the core of policies to address poverty eradication, going beyond extreme poverty to reach all the neediest and most vulnerable.[21]

31. The World Bank Group announced a new agenda geared towards ending extreme poverty at the global level and promoting growth with equity and inclusion. The target would be to ensure that the percentage of people living on less than US$ 1.25 a day fell to no more than 3 per cent by 2030, and to foster income growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the population in every country.[22] The agenda would give attention to income generation from the bottom up, an apt response to the continued evidence that growth in gross domestic product (GDP), although necessary, would not be enough to foster prosperity in a sustainable and inclusive way.

Inclusive growth and an enabling environment

32. Sustaining economic growth and reducing poverty require orienting macroeconomic policy towards the creation of more, and better, jobs. Countries that have fared better through economic cycles, reducing the fluctuation of output, investment and employment, have been able to implement a consistent set of countercyclical fiscal and monetary policies.

33. Research has continued to show that for growth to affect poverty reduction positively, it needs to absorb labour and be diversified and job-rich across multiple sectors. However, in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis and the resultant Great Recession, many countries have found it difficult to sustain this type of growth.

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[21] United Nations, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*. The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (United Nations, New York, 2013).

[22] World Bank, *The World Bank Group Goals: End Extreme Poverty and Promote Shared Prosperity* (World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2013).

34. There has been growing evidence of the need for fiscal stimuli in helping to propel inclusive growth; yet, many developed countries have adopted austerity in the hope of containing deficits during recession. The impact has been counterproductive in countries where employment has been affected, as an increase in unemployment led to reduced government revenue from taxes, exerting further fiscal pressure. Reduced public spending affected not only the vulnerable groups in developed countries themselves, but had an adverse effect on aid and investment in developing countries where official development assistance has accounted for a significant share of public revenue. Official development assistance declined in both 2011 and 2012, making it the first time since 1997 that official development assistance reduced in two consecutive years.[23] For these debt-strapped countries, maintaining their investments in human capital is thus not only important for their continued economic growth, but for economic development and poverty reduction at the global level.

35. Attention to active labour market policies can be helpful, particularly the provision of training and public employment services. Research by the International Institute of Labour Studies has shown that increased spending on active labour market policies of 0.5 per cent of GDP could increase medium-term employment rates by more than 1 per cent. Active labour market policies should be complemented by carefully designed unemployment benefits, as they can help to speed up growth and recovery by providing income support.[24] Effective implementation has been an important factor in their success. The effectiveness of active labour market policies and other drivers of job creation would also be heightened by support to collective action and efficient social dialogue. Where workers have had a voice in wage determination and workplace regulations, such as hours worked, the effectiveness of government spending on employment creation and monetary policy has improved.[24]

36. Direct job creation measures, such as large-scale public works initiatives — although not as effective as a focus on active labour market policies and income-support measures such as unemployment benefits — have had some direct and indirect effects on poverty reduction. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India, one widely cited example of this policy trend, made provision for 50 days of gainful work per year to about 50 million households, and has had a positive effect on numerous poverty-related factors, such as household spending on education, health care and food consumption.[25]

37. Inadequate structural components can hamper the effect on poverty reduction of even diverse, labour-intensive growth. Comparative research in Asia and Africa has shown that, in countries where the composition of growth was similar, differentiations in infrastructure and access to services have influenced the impact of growth on poverty. There needs to be an emphasis on providing an enabling environment for personal and community development through provision of

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[23] See footnote 10.

[24] Matthieu Charpe and Stefan Kühn, *Effective Employment policy under tight fiscal constraints: An application using the GEL model* (International Labour Organization, International Institute for Labour Studies, 2012).

[25] Poulomi Dasgupta, "Employment Generation Schemes and Long-Term Development", *Employment Guarantee Schemes: Job Creation and Policy in Developing Countries and Emerging Markets*; Michael J. Murray and Mathew Forstater, eds. (New York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2013), pp. 103-126.

adequate infrastructure and access to technology, eliminating discriminatory and exclusionary practices, and ensuring access to quality social services to improve human capability. All of this must be accomplished within the context of effective environmental management.

Agricultural growth and rural development

38. Supporting sustainable agricultural and rural development helps increase food production and reduce poverty and hunger. As highlighted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), poverty and hunger have remained most pervasive in those regions where agricultural capital per worker and public agricultural spending per worker have stagnated, or fallen. Other research has noted that, owing to the composition of global poverty, investment in agriculture was 2.5 to 3.0 times more effective in increasing the income of the poor than non-agricultural investment.[26]

39. Evidence has suggested that high public investment in large-scale agricultural programmes in various countries in Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa during the late 1990s and early part of the 2000s has achieved impressive agricultural growth, with significant effects on poverty reduction.[27] Research to improve yields, competitiveness, infrastructure development and support for market access have been crucial policy objectives for guiding investment during that period. The sustainability of agricultural growth, however, requires new policies that integrate the importance of ecosystem preservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

40. Eliminating rural poverty would require more than agricultural growth, however. Typically, as countries develop, not only does the relative share of agricultural production to GDP decrease, but mechanization and other technological advancements also reduce the labour needs in the sector. Therefore, while strengthening rural incomes through agriculture would be an effective strategy for poverty reduction in the short to medium term, attention must be given to the diversification of rural economies and to enhancing the skill sets of rural dwellers, enabling them to seek and transition to other employment sectors as labour demands shift.

Reduction of inequality and empowerment for poverty eradication

41. At the core, eradication of poverty and the improvement of overall well-being remain rooted in long-term investment in people and infrastructure and the elimination of systemic obstacles to upward economic, social and political mobility. Even without fast growth, improving the productive potential — through providing access to social services such as education, health care and nutrition — remains critical for building resilience and reducing poverty.

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[26] Kevin Cleaver, *Scaling Up in Agriculture, Rural Development, and Nutrition*, ed. Johannes F. Linn, "Investing in Agriculture to Reduce Poverty and Hunger", International Food Policy Research Institute, Focus 19, Brief 2 (Washington, D.C., 2012).

[27] Bhajan Grewal, Helena Grunfeld and Peter Sheehan, "The Contribution of agricultural growth to poverty reduction", Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Impact Assessment Series Report No. 76 (ACIAR, Canberra, 2012).

42. Successful poverty reduction thus requires a transformative social contract that promotes an inclusive society supported by the institutions and systemic structures and processes necessary for empowering people to participate fully in economic, social and political life. Efficiently managed social protection schemes and socially targeted public spending are thus effective complements to other poverty-reduction efforts. Cash-transfer programmes in Brazil, India and Mexico have helped to narrow income gaps and improve the health and educational prospects of poor communities.

43. Research in Latin America has shown that effectively implemented inequality-reduction measures can have a significant effect on poverty reduction. On average, during the 2000s, reductions in inequality accounted for about half of the decline in poverty: reductions in income and non-income inequality were found to be just as dependent on government transfers and shifts in labour-market policies as they were on macroeconomic shifts, such as terms of trade, diversification and sectoral development.[28]

44. In-kind transfers in education and health have been found to reduce inequality even more than cash transfers.[29] Research has also found mothers' education to be more important to child survival than household income. As noted in the Human Development Report 2013, this could have profound implications, potentially shifting emphasis from efforts to boost household income to measures to improve girls' education. High quality education boosts people's self-reliance, particularly where curricula are flexible, updated and designed to reflect the demands of the labour market.

45. Attempts to extrapolate the global impact of social protection on poverty have suggested that social protection keeps about 150 million persons around the world from falling into extreme poverty and, on average, reduces poverty in the developing world by about 45 per cent. However, because the content and coverage of social protection vary considerably across the globe, there have been differences in impact across countries. Eastern Europe and Central Asia have seen the greatest poverty-reducing benefits of their social protection programmes while, in sub-Saharan Africa, the average impact has been only about 1 per cent.[30] The need for setting some basic guidelines and targets for enhancing social protection policies is evident. The Social Protection Floor Initiative,[31] promoted by the United Nations, has been a positive move in this direction.

Environmental management and disaster-preparedness

46. Curbing the current, and potential, negative impact of climate change is integral to the eradication of poverty. Aside from addressing environmental degradation directly, curbing the impacts of climate change on poverty requires

[28] Nora Lustig, Luis F. Lopez-Calva and Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez, "Declining Inequality in Latin America in the 2000s: The cases of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico", Center for Global Development Working Paper 307 (Washington, D.C., 2012).

[29] Nora Lustig, Carola Pessino and John Scott, "The Impact of Taxes and Social Spending on Inequality and Poverty in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay; An Overview", Commitment to Equity Working Paper No. 13 (Washington, D.C., 2013).

[30] Ariel Fiszbein, Ravi Kanbur and Ruslan Yemstov, "Social Protection, Poverty and the Post-2015 Agenda", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6469 (Washington, D.C., 2013).

[31] International Labour Organization, "Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization", Report of the Advisory Group Chaired by Michelle Bachelet, Convened by ILO with the Collaboration of WHO (Geneva, 2011).

well-managed social protection, and pertinent investments in human capital and adequate infrastructure. Implementing the necessary policies is especially difficult in those countries and regions with limited economic resources. The establishment of the Green Climate Fund represents commitment from the international community to address this problem.[32]

47. Support for the development, dissemination and adaptation to local conditions of clean energy sources is important for moving development forward in a sustainable and inclusive way. Rapidly growing economies will need access to an ample supply of clean, affordable energy to maintain the ecosystem balance. This is especially pertinent to the Asian case, where growth has hinged on rapid, energy-intensive industrial development.

48. Economic losses from disasters have been increasing rapidly and are more than 15 times higher than they were in the 1950s.[33] Small island developing States, already vulnerable to economic shocks owing to economic size and external market dependence, have been among the most affected, particularly those in East Asia and the Pacific. The World Bank Group has pointed to investments in hazard forecasting and early warning systems, striking the balance between "grey" and "green" infrastructure, investing in social protection systems that can be scaled up in response to disasters, and robust urban planning mechanisms, as effective policy direction for curbing the negative effects on vulnerable economies and the poor.

Financing for development

49. Effective poverty reduction cannot be maintained without sustainable financing. While access to — and effective use of — aid remains an essential element of financing for poverty reduction, external aid is not enough; domestic resource mobilization remains key to ensuring that resources for policy implementation are available consistently. Securing and using external and internally sourced financing effectively requires a social and political environment that will encourage long-term investment by local and international partners. This requires good governance based on the rule of law and effective institutions couched in transparency and inclusion, ensuring that the voices of all groups are accounted for in decision-making processes. In the globalized international environment, inclusive growth in developing countries also requires open, fair and development-friendly trade systems and access to technology.

V. United Nations system-wide plan of action for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

50. The implementation of the policies discussed above requires significant efforts at the national and international levels. To this end, the system-wide Plan of Action for the implementation of the Second Decade has served to coordinate the United

[32] United Nations, Framework Convention on Climate Change Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventeenth session, held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011 (FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1).

[33] Abhas K. Jha, Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, *Strong, Safe, and Resilient: A Strategic Policy Guide for Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific*, Directions in development; environment and sustainable development (World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2013).

Nations system efforts in its advisory and programmatic support to Member States. Across the system, those efforts have continued to focus on supporting the Social Protection Floor Initiative and pro-poor investments in human capital, job creation and green growth, particularly through experience and knowledge-sharing.[34]

Promoting greater awareness about employment and decent work as an effective development strategy for poverty reduction

51. The Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-first session, held a panel discussion on the priority theme "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all". The panel discussion provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in interactive dialogue to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the links between empowerment and other critical elements of social policy in reducing poverty and promoting full employment and decent work for all. Stakeholders identified and exchanged experiences in implementing inclusive policies and strategies to enable the empowerment and participation of vulnerable people, communities and social groups, including people living in poverty.

52. The General Assembly declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, highlighting the contribution of cooperatives to socioeconomic development and, in particular, recognizing their impact on poverty reduction and employment generation. Throughout the year, Governments, cooperatives, international organizations, civil society actors and other stakeholders worked to increase public awareness about cooperatives and their contribution to socioeconomic development and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Most recently, at the Rio+20 conference, the international community acknowledged the role cooperatives have played in advancing important development goals such as poverty reduction and access to decent work and sustainable livelihoods.

53. In the report *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013*, the global jobs crisis is discussed. The report predicted a much slower pace of poverty reduction in many developing countries in the current post-crisis period, and called for more forceful and concerted policy action at the global level, identifying employment policies as one of the key challenges. The report stressed that the reorientation of fiscal policies should be coordinated internationally and aligned with structural policies that support direct job creation and green growth.

54. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the most recent issues of the joint publication *The employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, addressed issues of relevance to the performance of the region's labour market and their impact to improve understanding of this key policy area. The report discussed the evolution of youth employment and underemployment during the global economic crises and recovery period, progress made in the region with respect to the development of decent work indicators, and outstanding challenges.

55. FAO conducted several awareness-raising activities and shared good practices in relation to decent rural employment, particularly on child-labour prevention in agriculture, youth employment and social protection. FAO collaborated with ILO through the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture

[34] Inputs received from the relevant United Nations agencies.

to reduce children's exposure to hazardous pesticides. FAO also contributed to the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth.

56. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) collaborated with FAO and ILO to produce in 2011 the publication, *Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty*, which examined the links between gender equality and rural employment for poverty reduction, while analysing different patterns and conditions in the world of work in rural areas across different regions and socioeconomic contexts. The *Rural Poverty Report 2011*, produced by IFAD, stressed the need for an improved environment in which rural people could find decent employment opportunities, where their rights and ability to organize were recognized, and in which efforts were made to address the prevalence of poorly paid, insecure, female-dominated jobs in the informal sector.

57. The UNDP Bureau for Development Policy Poverty Group published country studies on the employment impact of social and economic policies. UNDP and ILO led global thematic consultations on growth, structural change and employment. Participants addressed the issue of employment as a critical means to the achievement of sustainable development and employment creation within new growth patterns and structures, including the need to move to a low-carbon economy and increasing the use of green technologies. UNDP held consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in 83 countries in which employment and decent work were raised as major concerns. Key issues that ran through the discussions at the country and international levels included youth employment, informal employment, marginalization of people in labour markets, labour migration, inequality, education, social protection, and policies for improving productive capacities in developing countries.

58. ILO, in cooperation with UNDP, led the global thematic consultation on growth and employment. ILO organized a briefing on growth and employment in the post-2015 development agenda in December 2012, and an e-discussion on the theme "Setting jobs and livelihoods at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda". A concept note on "Jobs and livelihoods at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda" was prepared and distributed widely to make the case for including full and productive employment and decent work in the post-2015 agenda.

59. ILO report *World of Work 2013* provided a comprehensive analysis of the current state of labour markets and social conditions around the world. The report discussed income inequality and showed that the employment situation has deteriorated significantly in most advanced economies, and highlighted the spillover effects of this deterioration on emerging and developing economies. The ILO *Global Employment Trends 2013* showed that global unemployment figures were rising, although with significant differences between regions, while the ILO *Global Wage Report 2012-2013* looked at the macroeconomic effects of wages and, particularly, at the way current trends were linked to equitable growth. It also showed how the gap between wage growth and labour-productivity growth was widening, the difference between the top and bottom earners increasing, and labour income share declining.

Strengthening capacity-building

60. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of ILO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly organized an expert group meeting on *Green Growth and Green Jobs for Youth* in December 2012, in Bangkok. The meeting stimulated dialogue between participants, shared information and knowledge for achieving better understanding of the challenges in creating green jobs, and identified promising initiatives and examples of green jobs for youth employment creation, in particular in Asia and the Pacific.

61. ECLAC and UNICEF provided training on the multidimensional measurement of child poverty to national statistical officers and members of civil society in 2012, in El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago. ECLAC provided technical assistance to El Salvador and Haiti in social protection systems and the conceptualization and design of their conditional cash transfer programmes. This resulted in the Social Development Law bill being discussed currently in the political system and civil society. The ECLAC office in Buenos Aires provided technical assistance on wage policies to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina.

62. UN-Habitat developed and implemented the innovative youth economic empowerment model One Stop Youth Centres to help increase youth access to entrepreneurship, livelihood opportunities and incomes. The main objective of the centres is to provide employment ideas and gender-sensitive vocational training and apprenticeship opportunities to urban youth. FAO provided technical support on youth employability and entrepreneurship through technical cooperation projects and promoted rural youth employment through the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools agro-skills and entrepreneurship methodology. FAO, together with ILO, conducted capacity-building activities for national stakeholders in Cambodia, Malawi, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania. IFAD provided training in several countries in crop production, business and entrepreneurship and community management. IFAD was involved in capacity-building and knowledge-management training for gender equality. UNDP, with the adoption of the System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP), participated in the activities of the employment subgroup and conducted activities supporting institutional reform for an enabling environment conducive to youth entrepreneurship, including access to markets and finance.

63. The ILO International Training Centre conducted training courses that identified and disseminated the best thinking and practices concerning the world of work. The Centre ran more than 450 programmes and projects for about 11,000 people from more than 180 countries. The ILO Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training played a major role in promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation, partnerships and knowledge-sharing, with a view to promoting skills development and reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Sharing best practices in promoting employment and decent work at the national and international levels

64. ECLAC conducted research on extensive self-employment working conditions and predominant informal activities, which are major concerns regarding decent work in Haiti. The ECLAC office in Buenos Aires, in coordination with the Ministries of Economy and Labour, Employment and Social Security, conducted a

study on Argentina's production structure and its linkages with issues of employment, social development and equality.

65. UN-Habitat worked at the country level to promote strategies and policies that strengthened the capacity of cities to act as an engine of economic development. UN-Habitat, in partnership with local urban authorities, also developed and disseminated information on integrated approaches to improving urban productivity and competitiveness by building upon local capacity.

66. An IFAD-ILO study in Egypt, Senegal, Madagascar, Nicaragua and Nepal demonstrated the relevance of the four pillars of the decent work approach — employment, labour standards, social protection and social dialogue — for improving the living and working conditions of young people in rural areas. ILO held several global and regional events which helped to mobilize strong support for the decent work agenda, in particular in the context of the crisis.

Supporting the integration of decent work and poverty eradication into national and international policies and programmes

67. The ECLAC office in Mexico carried out analytical work aimed at strengthening the capacity of national Governments in the subregion to adopt policies that would support the creation and promotion of decent work. The Division of Gender Affairs in ECLAC implemented a project aimed at fostering women's inclusion in the labour market, especially in the dynamic sectors in Costa Rica and El Salvador.

68. UN-Habitat developed and implemented Urban Youth Fund projects to promote poverty reduction and achieve sustainable urban development. By undertaking research on best practices in youth-led development, the Fund also created greater awareness of the need to integrate youth concerns into national and local development policies and strategies.

69. FAO promoted the provision of policy and institutional support towards the integration of decent rural employment in agricultural and rural development policies and published *Guidance on how to address decent rural employment in FAO country activities*. IFAD developed two products aimed at addressing the decent work needs of rural youth: *A Guidance Note*, which sought to enable development practitioners and project staff to design programmes addressing decent work and livelihood issues of rural youth; and a *Policy Brief* which offered a series of specific recommendations for promoting rural youth employment.

70. The joint UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative supported the integration of social, economic and environmental objectives in national development policies in 18 countries and promoted environmentally based activities that created jobs. UNDP participated in employment-related projects and activities in 62 countries. The support focused on the areas of national and sectoral policies in employment generation, vocational education and training, entrepreneurship and microfinance, and public works, including in post-conflict settings. ILO supported tripartite constituents in four strategic areas of the Decent Work Agenda through nationally driven Decent Work Country Programmes. A total of 113 Member States have either finalized Decent Work Country Programmes or are in the process of preparing such programmes.

Promoting social protection

71. The United Nations system continued to emphasize social protection in its poverty reduction efforts. ILO published its *Social security strategy*, which provided guidance on future developments of social security in countries at all levels of development. The aim of the strategy was to build comprehensive social security systems in line with national priorities, resources and circumstances. The strategy reaffirmed the promotion of employment as an economic and social necessity for development and served as the basis for the ILO technical support, advisory services and capacity-building. ILO and the World Bank co-chaired the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board. Participating agencies committed to join forces on social protection data harmonization, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, global coordination, research and advocacy, and international cooperation in country demand-driven actions in developing common assessment tools.

72. UNICEF developed and disseminated its global strategy framework on social protection, which was drawn from country-level experience combined with global-level expertise and analysis. In 2012, UNICEF launched the Social Protection Strategic Framework, which strengthened its global position on social protection debates, made the case for child-sensitive social protection, and argued for the expansion of inclusive, integrated systems as an effective approach to achieving greater equity for children and furthering broader human and economic development. The organization was involved in social protection initiatives in 104 countries, undertook child poverty and disparities analysis in 81 countries and engaged in social budgeting in 64 countries. In countries such as Liberia, Uruguay, Zimbabwe and Ghana, where there were successful social protection programmes, UNICEF piloted conditional cash transfer programmes in order to enhance child focus further.

73. ECLAC produced a new series of case studies on social protection systems in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as studies on childhood and social protection in the region. It created a regional database on conditional cash transfer programmes and social pensions, tracking budgets and population coverage of these programmes. The aim was to disseminate knowledge on the scope and challenges of social protection, in terms of realizing the economic and social rights of the population and eradicating poverty. The UNDP International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth continued its work on impact evaluation of social protection schemes in Ecuador and Mexico. The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth served as facilitator and convener of South-South sharing on social protection, public works and other active labour market policy instruments.

VI. Conclusion and recommendations

74. **The Second Poverty Decade and its focus on employment and decent work for all has provided an important platform for national action and international cooperation to eradicate poverty. Poverty eradication requires integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — to achieve people-centred development outcomes. The Second Decade has enabled a critical focus on sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, by integrating inclusiveness and opportunities for all segments of the population.**

75. The eradication of poverty should remain at the core of a transformative development agenda beyond 2015. This new framework must draw on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the continued impacts of the global financial and economic crisis, inequality, food insecurity and environmental degradation, to ensure that the future of social and economic development follow a sustainable trajectory.

76. The system-wide Plan of Action for the implementation of the Second Decade continues to play an important role in ensuring coherence among the United Nations entities in their support of the wide range of national efforts on poverty eradication.

77. The General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) Recognize that a post-2015 development agenda should centre on the eradication of extreme poverty, the creation of employment opportunities, the promotion of social justice grounded in the voice of the people, and the promotion of equitable, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability;

(b) Encourage Member States to give priority to creating productive employment and decent work, in particular for young people, through strengthening skills and labour markets, improving the quality of jobs, and extending support to vulnerable groups;

(c) Acknowledging that universal access to basic social protection is critical to reducing poverty and inequality, urge Member States to improve existing social protection systems and to develop and implement social protection floors, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and people with disabilities;

(d) Recognizing the pervasive nature of rural poverty and the predominance of working poor in the agricultural sector, call upon Member States to implement policies for improving agricultural productivity, and enhancing livelihoods and food security and nutrition, in poor rural communities;

(e) Encourage Member States to promote the advancement of micro-, small- and medium-size enterprises, the most dynamic sources of employment, by implementing policies that facilitate access of smallholders and entrepreneurs to credit, resources, technical and extension services, insurance and markets;

(f) Encourage Member States to promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and the protection and management of the natural resource base of economic and social development;

(g) Call upon the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency collaboration and policy coherence on poverty and employment issues further, within the framework of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

United Nations A/68/184

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Item 28 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Measures taken and progress achieved in the promotion of women and political participation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/130, provides precise data on the political participation of women at all levels and describes measures taken by Member States to ensure women's equal participation. It concludes with recommendations for further action to accelerate the achievement of equality between women and men in political participation at all levels.

* A/68/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/130 on women and political participation, the General Assembly called upon Member States to enhance the political participation of women and accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women. It urged all States to take action to ensure women's equal participation, including in times of political transition, by reviewing electoral systems for their impact on the participation of women; implementing appropriate measures to eliminate barriers to women's participation; encouraging political parties to remove barriers that discriminate against the participation of women; promoting awareness of the importance of women's participation in the political process; developing training to support women's participation in the electoral process; and investigating allegations of violence against women elected officials and candidates.

2. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. It encouraged Governments to provide precise data on the political participation of women at all levels, including, where appropriate, information on the political participation of women in times of political transition. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request. The examples set out in the report are based on the responses, unless otherwise indicated, of 42 Member States[1] and seven United Nations entities.[2] The report also draws on the recent report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice (A/HRC/23/50).

II. Background

3. The normative framework for women's political participation is derived from a number of sources, including human and political rights declarations, conventions and resolutions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the principles of non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of political rights, including the right of women and men to take part in the government of their country. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women articulates women's equal right to participation in political and public life, including the right to vote in all elections and public referenda, eligibility for election to all publicly elected bodies and participation in the formulation and implementation of government policy.

4. The Convention states that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country, including through temporary special measures. In its resolution 1990/15, the Economic and Social Council recommended specific targets for increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions to 30 per cent by 1995 and 50 per cent

[1] Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

[2] Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Political Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

by 2000. The Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 assessed progress towards those goals, and States adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, according to which Governments committed to take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making, and to establish the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, public administrative entities and the judiciary. The Platform for Action became a major catalyst for Governments to introduce temporary special measures, such as quotas, in order to increase women's political participation. In its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council urged Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution and peace processes. However, despite the decades of mobilization and effort undertaken in that regard, the General Assembly voiced its concern, in resolution 66/130, that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere.

III. Thematic analysis: overview of data and progress

5. While some progress has been achieved over the past three decades, women remain marginalized from political decision-making in every region of the world. In some regions, economic development and rapid growth have not been accompanied by gender equality gains. In other regions, the dismantling of authoritarian regimes and transition to democracy have not always been accompanied by a substantial increase in women's representation in new political institutions.

6. Such trends are reflected in the low numerical presence of women in elected and appointed bodies. The standard indicator used to monitor progress on women's political participation is the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments. That data has been tracked and made available by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for over three decades and is also one of the indicators used to monitor progress towards the attainment of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, on promoting gender equality and empowering women. Data on women Heads of State and Government is also regularly collected. However, the participation of women in other elected bodies, such as local governments, and in primarily appointed bodies, such as at the executive/ministerial level and public administration, is not regularly collated globally.

A. Participation of women in elected bodies

1. Legislative level

7. Few Member States have achieved the target set out in resolution 1990/15 of 30 per cent women in decision-making positions by 1995. At the legislative level, only 35 national parliaments comprise 30 per cent or more women as at June 2013,[3]

[3] In single or lower houses of parliament as of June 2013: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. Data reflects the proportion of women elected; the current number may have increased or decreased in post-election periods owing to resignations or other factors. See IPU Parline Database, available from http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp.

up from five national parliaments in 1995. In respect of the Platform for Action, only 2 of the 35 countries, namely, Andorra and Rwanda, have achieved or surpassed the target of gender balance in their parliaments, as set out in the Platform for Action.

8. The 35 countries share some commonalities, including that 91 per cent employ proportional representation or mixed electoral systems and over 50 per cent have legislated electoral quotas.[4] Twelve are developed States, nine are sub-Saharan States, eight are Latin American and Caribbean States and three are from Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Only one State each in the Middle East and North Africa region, the South Asia region, and the East Asia, South Asia and Pacific region have met the threshold (Algeria, Nepal and Timor-Leste). Nine of the 35 are post-conflict States. Experience shows that periods of transition offer opportunities to implement strategies and measures to enhance the political participation of women.

9. The majority of Member States (115) register between 10 and 29 per cent women members of parliament. Of those, most are from sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin American and the Caribbean, and 16 are developed States. In 64 per cent of the States there are no legislated gender quotas.

10. In 37 States, women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians, notably in the East Asia, South Asia and Pacific regions (12), in the sub-Saharan Africa region (7) and in the Middle East and North Africa region (5). Most of the 37 States use majority electoral systems, and 90 per cent of them have no electoral quotas.

11. There are wide divergences between regions, as reflected in figure I. The developed region has the highest proportion of women members of parliament, at 27.8 per cent, followed closely by the Latin American and Caribbean region, at 25.6 per cent. Despite recent progress, the Middle East and North Africa region continues to have the lowest average overall, including one State with no women members of parliament. In 2013, Saudi Arabia appointed women members to the Consultative Council for the first time.[5] As a subregion, Oceania registers the lowest proportion of women members at 3.2 per cent, including three parliaments with no women members.[6] On average, across all regions, women hold 21.2 per cent of seats in single or lower houses of parliament, up from 11.6 per cent in 1995.

12. In addition, 78 States are bicameral with upper houses of parliament. Many of the chambers are appointed or indirectly elected (40 per cent). The average proportion of women members in upper houses is 18.8 per cent. Of the 78 States, only 16 have surpassed the 30 per cent threshold.[7]

13. The global average of women members of parliament in all chambers combined stands at 20.9 per cent as at June 2013. While this represents an increase of 7.1 points since 2000, when the United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted, progress has been slow and uneven. The participation of women in

[4] Fifteen have legislated candidate quotas and four have reserved seats for women. In addition, 10 countries have voluntary quotas adopted by political parties.

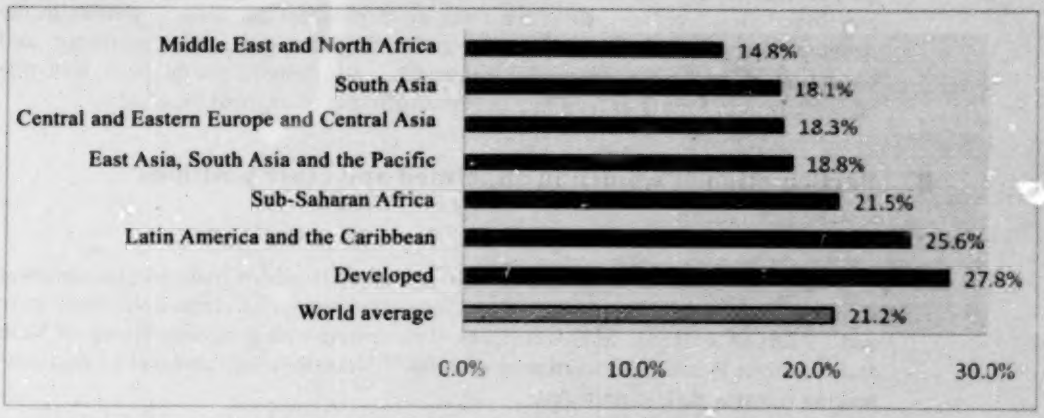
[5] A royal order issued in 2013 provided that women should constitute 20 per cent of the members in the Council.

[6] Average proportion of women parliamentarians in States of the Oceania subregion, excluding Australia and New Zealand, which are covered under the developed region. The Federated States of Micronesia, Palau (lower house) and Vanuatu have no women members of parliament.

[7] IPU, "Women in national parliaments". Available from http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm.

parliament has been increasing with less than one percentage point per year and remains well below global targets. Women's access to the highest parliamentary positions, including Presiding Officer of Parliament, stands at 14.2 per cent of all posts.[8] The gender balance target will not be reached by States unless additional measures are taken to facilitate women's access to legislatures.

Figure I
Women in parliament by region: single and lower houses



Source: IPU, Parline Database. Available from http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp.
Note: The regional designations are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

2. Local governments

14. Reporting on data at the subnational level is sporadic. Thirty States reported information on the proportion of women mayors and councillors. A few States reported that the proportion of women councillors exceeded 30 per cent (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Finland, Ireland, Namibia, South Africa, Spain, Saint Lucia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Several States noted that there is a drop in the proportion of women members at the mayoral or executive committee level, compared with the proportion who are councillors.

15. Despite the importance of measuring progress at the local government level, there is no global baseline measurement of women's participation at that level and no central repository to track advancements in that area. A welcome initiative involves the tracking of data at the regional level, in particular through the regional commissions. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, regularly compiles data on the percentage of women elected mayors and city council members for 28 countries in the region. Similarly, the Economic Commission for Europe collects information for 36 countries about women in municipal councils. The organization United Cities and Local Governments, a member driven, non-profit umbrella organization for cities, local governments and municipal associations throughout the world, established in 2004, sporadically publishes data on women councillors and mayors. Further collaboration across the regional

[8] IPU, "Women in parliament in 2012: the year in perspective". Available from http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/WIP2012e.pdf.

commissions and with other relevant institutions could facilitate the availability of regional and global data on women's representation in local government.

3. Women candidates for election

16. Some States report on the proportion of women candidates who stand for election, using data from electoral management bodies, national statistical offices or parliamentary and local government resource centres. Available data suggests that on average women comprise less than 20 per cent of candidates for parliamentary elections.[9] However, the proportion rises to 45 per cent for some countries in the developed region (Belgium and Iceland). Regular systematic reporting and collection of such data nationally, regionally and globally would be a welcome advancement in efforts to facilitate the establishment of a global baseline.

B. Participation of women in appointed and other positions

1. Heads of State and Government

17. Regular reporting on the proportion of women Heads of State and Government shows an incremental increase. In 2013, 8 women served as elected Heads of State and 13 served as Heads of Government,[10] compared with 6 women Heads of State and 3 women Heads of Government in 2000.[11] Nevertheless, this level of decision-making remains male-dominated.

18. The access of women to hereditary Head of State positions remains uneven, with some countries continuing to prohibit such access either through law or in practice. While most States that maintain hereditary Heads of State do not discriminate according to sex, a few have preferences for male heirs.

2. Women in ministerial positions

19. Women's representation in executive or ministerial positions is even lower than in parliaments. In 2012, women accounted for just 16.7 per cent of ministerial positions worldwide.[12] Only 27 countries had surpassed the 30 per cent threshold for women ministers.[13] In 144 countries, women occupy less than one quarter of the ministerial posts[14] and tend to dominate in portfolios related to social, family and women's affairs, education, employment and the environment. Figure II reflects the proportion of women ministers by region. Since most ministerial posts are appointed

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[9] *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XVII.11), p. 114.

[10] Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Jamaica, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, San Marino, Slovenia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago. Some hold the post of Head of State and Government simultaneously.

[11] Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Panama, San Marino and Sri Lanka. Some hold the post of Head of State and Government simultaneously. See IPU and UN-Women, "Map on women in politics: 2012: situation on 1 January 2012".

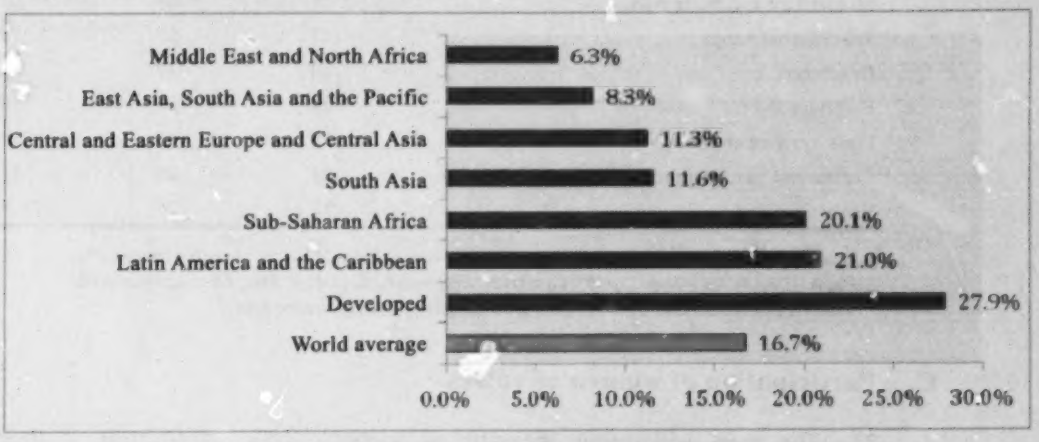
[12] IPU and UN-Women, "Map on women in politics: 2012 — situation on 1 January 2012".

[13] Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cape Verde, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[14] Based on data from IPU and UN-Women (2012).

or nominated, the lower representation of women in those offices may primarily reflect a lack of political will.

Figure II
Proportion of women ministers by region



Source: Calculation by UN-Women, based on data collected by IPU (2012).

3. Judiciary

20. Women's participation in public life also extends to non-elected positions within the judiciary and public administration. Data on women in the judiciary is scarce. Globally, as at July 2010, women accounted for 27 per cent of judges, 26 per cent of prosecutors and only 9 per cent of police officers (see table). While the percentage of women judges approached 50 per cent in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and was over 30 per cent in the Latin American and Caribbean and developed regions, in no region did women's representation in the police surpass 13 per cent. Similarly, a study of 85 supreme and constitutional courts indicated that fewer than half had 30 per cent or more women members, and only 13 had women chief justices.[15]

21. Sex-disaggregated data on nominated public office holders is very uneven. Similarly, data on women's leadership in political parties, as community leaders, in trade unions and community-based organizations is not systematically collected (see A/HRC/23/50). Such an important knowledge gap needs to be closed.

[15] UN-Women, "Progress of the world's women 2011-2012: in pursuit of justice", p. 60.

Proportion of women in prosecution, judges and police by region

Region	*Judges (%)*	*Prosecution (%)*	*Police (%)*
South Asia	9	4	3
Middle East and North Africa	25	26	2
Sub-Saharan Africa	27	27	12
Developed	30	32	13
East Asia and the Pacific	24	22	10
Latin America and the Caribbean	36	42	10
Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia	44	29	11
World	27	26	9

Source: UN-Women, "Progress of the world's women 2011-2012: in pursuit of justice".
Note: Aggregates are based on 99 countries with available police data, 66 countries with prosecution data and 88 countries with judges and magistrates data.

C. Participation of women as voters

22. The most widespread indicator of women's civic engagement is their participation as voters in elections. Many States have begun reporting sex-disaggregated data on voter registration through their electoral management bodies. However, most States do not report sex-disaggregated data on the turnout rates on election day (voter turnout data). The limited data available has not been systematized or aggregated over time and across regions, and it is therefore not possible to draw conclusions about progress or setbacks.

23. Available data suggests that voter turnout varies from region to region and is lowest among young voters. The turnout of women is frequently influenced by lower access to information and civic education, fear of political violence in the polling process and family responsibilities. Women who do go to the polls may face higher levels of targeted violence and may be subject to family voting practices that violate their freedom of choice. Women may not possess the required documentation to register and vote, such as identification documents or citizenship certificates, in particular in times of conflict or political transition. Further efforts are therefore needed, including conducting gender analyses of voter registration practices and voter turnout, and systematic reporting of the data in order to strengthen the knowledge base and design appropriate policy or programme responses.

D. Challenges affecting women's political participation

24. Systemic and legal barriers to women's political participation persist at all levels and in multiple forms, and include culture and patriarchy, lack of financial resources, the challenge of balancing family and professional obligations, and lack of support by political parties. Member States reported that stereotyping and traditionally prescribed gender roles foster views of women as unqualified for political office (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Italy, Philippines and Zimbabwe). The situation is compounded by their lower socioeconomic position in most States, with women lacking the basic resources or

economic independence necessary to pursue public office. Political empowerment therefore goes hand-in-hand with the economic empowerment of women.

25. Male-dominated power structures continue to hinder women who consider political careers. Several States noted that candidate selection processes within political parties can serve as a barrier (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan and Zimbabwe). Political parties are the gateway to political office; however, few women are nominated as electoral candidates since party leaders tend to select men. Women are hampered by fewer family and business connections, have relatively less access to the financial and social capital required for campaigning, have less experience in local government or are not sitting incumbents. Household duties, including unpaid care work, reproductive roles and restricted mobility, lower the ability of women to campaign and attend political meetings.

26. Even after navigating the nomination processes of political parties, women may encounter other institutional and structural barriers, including those related to the electoral system, absent or weak legal protections against gender-based violence and a gender-biased electorate. Mainstream media contributes to the challenge through negative stereotyping and unequal coverage of women candidates, reinforcing the prevailing gender bias against women.

E. Collection of sex-disaggregated data

27. While progress has been made on international standards and guidelines for the collection of gender statistics, the preparation of the present report was hampered by the limited availability of comparable statistics on women's political participation across a range of areas. Some of the data collected is often not comparable because definitions, collection methods and sources vary from country to country, in particular at the subnational level.

28. In addition, a wider variety of data beyond the number of women holding seats in parliament is needed, in particular in view of the run-up to the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2015. It is also important for States as they consider the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, including indicators to measure progress on gender equality. The efforts of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics resulted in the development of a minimum set of 52 gender indicators; their use was agreed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 44/109. However, indicators such as women's representation in local governments or women voters and candidates were not included in the set. Additional efforts are needed to support expanded data collection.

IV. Measures taken by States

A. Constitutional reforms

29. In accordance with international obligations, and as a first step towards embodying the principle of equality between men and women, gender equality should be enshrined in constitutions, and/or existing discriminatory provisions should be removed. States reported on the presence of constitutional provisions

guaranteeing equality among citizens or equality between women and men in all aspects before the law.[16] Non-discrimination clauses, including the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex or gender and other criteria are incorporated into many constitutions. Several States reported specific provisions guaranteeing women's rights in the constitution, including El Salvador, Malawi, Montenegro, the Philippines and Sweden.

30. Constitutions can also provide the foundation for promoting women's participation in civic and political life. Some States reported provisions that directly address political participation (Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, Portugal, Turkey and Zimbabwe). Others reported on guarantees for women's participation as voters, including Burkina Faso and the Niger. A few constitutions set forth the gender balance between women and men in elected and appointed posts,[17] and the Plurinational State of Bolivia includes the principle of parity and the alternation of men and women on electoral lists for members of subnational assemblies.

31. Thirty-three States provide for the implementation of temporary special measures or affirmative action in their constitutions.[18] Such a positive trend can be attributed to the ratification of the Convention and the implementation of concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, together with the active campaigning of women's movements (see A/HRC/23/50). Under the Convention, States parties are obligated to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life. The Convention provides that temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between women and men should not be considered discrimination. The meaning and scope of temporary special measures are further outlined in paragraph 22 of general recommendation No. 25 (2004) of the Committee and are broadly defined to include legislative, executive, administrative or other regulatory instruments, policies and practices, including allocation of resources, preferential treatment, targeted recruitment and promotion, numerical goals connected with time frames and quota systems.

32. The most frequently legislated temporary special measure is the adoption of quotas in electoral arrangements. Quotas usually set a numerical target for women to be nominated as candidates or as elected representatives, although they may also be formulated to apply to either sex. Twenty-three States make provision for quotas in their constitutions.[19] The constitutional provisions of Rwanda and Burundi extend

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[16] Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Zimbabwe. According to a 2013 UN-Women database on gender equality constitutional provisions, and based on an analysis conducted by UN-Women of codified and non-codified constitutions in 185 countries, 136 States have constitutional provisions on equality.

[17] Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ecuador.

[18] Including responses received from Argentina, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malawi, Montenegro, Namibia, Pakistan, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

[19] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Guyana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Based on an analysis of 183 countries for which data is available. However, not all these States have enacted gender quotas in national legislation.

quotas to the local government level, and the unique system in India of rotating reserved seats in *panchayat* elections is provided for in the constitution.

33. United Nations entities, including the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), have supported Member States in integrating gender equality provisions in national constitutions and reform processes. They supported the participation of women in constitution-making processes and promoted the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in different countries. UN-Women and UNDP convened a 2011 workshop to share comparative experiences across transitional countries (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen). The Department of Political Affairs and UNDP have prepared guidelines on good practices in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and have provided technical support on constitution drafting, for example in Somalia. UN-Women has undertaken a global mapping of gender equality provisions in national constitutions, compiled in a searchable database, and produced a case study of lessons learned on ongoing constitutional processes.

B. Electoral law reforms and quotas

34. Member States employ a variety of electoral systems adopted for their national contexts. Experience shows, however, that larger numbers of women are elected under proportional electoral systems (24.6 per cent) than under First Past the Post majority or plurality systems (18.5 per cent).[20] The proportion of women elected in mixed systems is 21.5 per cent. In plurality or majority electoral systems, one candidate is usually elected per district, and political parties tend to nominate the candidates they view as most likely to win, usually men. In proportional systems, several candidates are elected in a district. Voters usually choose between political parties, rather than between individual candidates, and parties may be more inclined to compile diversified lists of candidates that include women. Evidence shows that the type of electoral system can greatly affect a woman's chances of being elected.

35. Electoral systems alone do not determine the level of women's representation, but they can be used together with temporary special measures to promote women's participation. Analysis of available evidence indicates that the most substantial increases in women's representation usually occur when electoral quotas are applied to a system involving proportional representation.

36. In order to address the uneven access of women to parliaments and the obstacles they face in the electoral process, 64 countries across all regions have adopted legislation on electoral quotas, primarily in the past two decades.[21] On average, countries with electoral quotas elected 25 per cent women members of parliament, compared with 19 per cent for those with no quotas.

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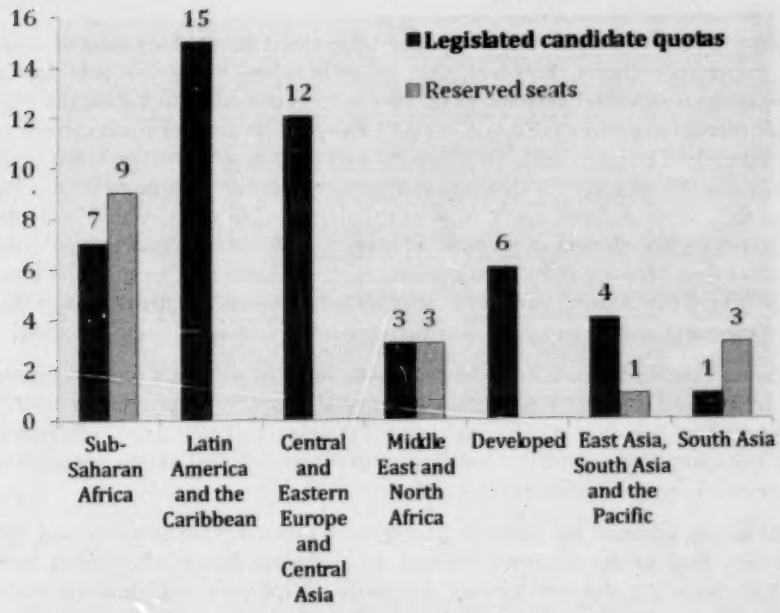
[20] Based on an analysis of 183 countries for which data is available. See IPU Parline Database, available from http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp.

[21] Based on an analysis of 183 countries, for which data is available; 48 countries have candidate nomination quotas, 16 have reserved seats and 118 have no legislated measures (although political parties may have adopted voluntary quotas). See International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, IPU and Stockholm University, Global Database of Quotas for Women. Available from http://www.quotaproject.org. See also IPU Parline Database.

37. There are two main types of electoral quotas: candidate quotas and reserved seats. The former requires that women comprise a minimum number of candidates on party lists, while the latter requires that a number of seats be set, which only women can contest. There are regional trends in the use of candidate quotas and reserved seats, as reflected in figure III. Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean report the highest rates of electoral quota implementation. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa adopted electoral quotas in the aftermath of conflict, when new electoral laws were drawn up. Latin American States lead the way with candidate quotas, with 15 States having adopted reforms. In addition to legislated quotas, hundreds of political parties in all regions have taken action to adopt candidate quotas on a voluntary basis. Forty-eight States have adopted candidate quota legislation, which is most commonly used with proportional systems.[22] On average, women hold 25.2 per cent of parliamentary seats when this type of quota is implemented. Most of these laws prescribe that women or the underrepresented sex should constitute at least 30 to 33 per cent of the names on candidate lists (Argentina, El Salvador, Greece, Ireland and Portugal).

Figure III
Quotas by region



Source: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, IPU and Stockholm University, Global Database of Quotas for Women. Available from http://www.quotaproject.org.

38. The provision for alternation or placement of women on the lists and the enforcement of numerical targets are important considerations for the successful implementation of candidate quotas. Some States specify the alternation or placement

[22] See http://www.quotaproject.org.

of women in certain positions on the lists (Argentina, Indonesia, Spain and Mexico). The most common enforcement measure of numerical targets is the rejection of candidate lists that do not meet the legal quota target, usually with the opportunity to correct the lists within a specified timeframe. Eleven States use financial penalties and/or incentives related to the allocation of public funding to political parties.[23] For example, in Burkina Faso, France, Ireland and Portugal, public funding can be cut by up to 50 per cent if the numerical target is not reached. Several States have reformed their quota laws after the initial introduction in order to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms in the absence of compliance by political parties.

39. Sixteen States use reserved seats, with allocations varying between one quarter and one third of representatives.[24] The average proportion of women elected in States using reserved seats is 23.9 per cent. The adoption of reserved seats does not preclude women from competing for open seats. In some countries, women may only be elected one or two times in reserved seats before having to take part in an open competition.

40. Electoral quotas can offer a potential technical solution to the structural problem of the underrepresentation of women, but they need to be supported with other measures, such as awareness-raising, capacity-building and promoting gender sensitive reforms in parliaments and political parties. Such efforts should not be limited to electoral processes and specific electoral events but should encompass continued and consistent support and advocacy for women's political participation in all decision-making processes.

41. The United Nations system continues to prioritize inclusive electoral processes. Technical advice to Member States on various electoral systems and their impacts on women's political participation continues to be an important part of assistance provided by the Department of Political Affairs, UNDP and UN-Women. The system-wide guideline for United Nations electoral needs assessments integrates a gender perspective, and gender analyses and recommendations are systematically included in the reports of Department of Political Affairs-led needs assessments.[25] Supporting national efforts in promoting women's participation is an important part of the activities undertaken by special political missions in many countries. United Nations electoral support to Member States has included, where applicable, advisory services on quotas and electoral reform and other measure to countries including Algeria, Cameroon, Chile, Egypt, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Montenegro, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Tunisia.

C. Political finance reforms

42. The substantial sums of money that are usually required to run a campaign and win the election constitute a common impediment for women political aspirants and

[23] Albania, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Croatia, France, Georgia, Ireland, Kenya, Niger, Portugal and Republic of Korea.

[24] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Eritrea, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

[25] See Policy Guideline on United Nations Electoral Needs Assessments, FP/02/2012, issued by the focal point for electoral assistance. In addition, the Policy Directive on Principles and Types of United Nations Electoral Assistance, FP/01/2012, requires United Nations entities to mainstream a gender perspective into all aspects of electoral assistance provided to Member States.

candidates. In many countries, successful election is closely correlated with the amount of money raised for the campaign and for media exposure. Lack of finances disproportionately affects women candidates since they typically have less access to moneyed networks and credit, have less time and confidence to raise funds on their own behalf and may fear the repercussions of campaign costs on family budgets.

43. States are starting to adopt political finance reforms to level the playing field for women, although regulations vary in their target and effectiveness. In 117 States, legislation provides for the direct public financing of political parties, typically to cover campaign expenditures, training, party activities and intra-party institution-building.[26] Of the 117, 27 States[27] make the allocation of public funding dependent on fulfilling certain gender equality requirements. Recent reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ireland and Mexico link political finance allocations to the promotion of women's participation in decision-making.

44. The use of public funding as an incentive for political parties to comply with quota regulations is the most common form of legislation on political financing, with 11 countries having enacted legislation to this effect.[26] Public funding can be used as an incentive to increase the number of women nominated in the absence of legislated electoral quotas, as in Italy. A few States have adopted measures to increase the proportion of public funding allocated specifically to women candidates (Canada, Haiti and Papua New Guinea). Thirteen countries require that political parties allocate a proportion of the public funds they receive to training and other actions needed to enhance women's political participation through earmarking provisions, as in Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama. In Togo, the candidate nomination fee is reduced if a party list contains women candidates, and in Finland, parliamentary parties must allocate a proportion of their annual party subsidy to fund women's wings.[26]

45. Measures such as establishing spending and contribution limits may help level the field; enforceable disclosure mechanisms for political parties and candidates can increase accountability; and legislation that prohibits illicit sources of funding or practices, such as vote buying, may significantly help women candidates. In addition, political parties in some States have adopted innovative measures to channel additional funding to women candidates. In Nigeria, many political parties waive party fees to eliminate the registration cost for women candidates. In Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Estonia, parties provide additional funds specifically to assist women candidates during the election campaign. In Australia, Canada and the United States of America, political parties have affiliated fundraising groups to raise money specifically for women candidates.

D. Measures taken by political parties

46. Several States reported action taken by political parties to promote women's leadership.[28] In most cases, the initiatives are taken by the parties themselves,

[26] International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Political Finance Database (2013). Available from http://www.idea.int/political-finance. It contains data for 180 countries.

[27] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Romania and Togo.

[28] Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

without legislative requirements. Aside from the finance measures, actions include the voluntary adoption of quotas on party candidate lists for election and/or in the party's leadership structures, such as in Argentina, Australia, Cyprus, Finland, Romania and Zimbabwe. Other examples establish equal opportunity, non-discrimination and/or gender equality clauses in party manifestos and constitutions. Political parties in Argentina, Cyprus and Guatemala have enshrined such principles in their party regulations, explicitly prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or gender.

47. The creation of women's wings within party structures is an additional measure. In Argentina, Croatia, Saint Lucia, Portugal and elsewhere, some political parties have established women's wings to provide dedicated forums for discussing and addressing women's issues within the party. Parties in other countries have introduced women's units to monitor the performance of the party against their own commitments and to advocate for women's priorities to be included in party policy. Some States reported that political parties offer targeted training to women political aspirants and adopt awareness-raising campaigns to improve access for women and to educate party members and constituents on gender sensitivity.

48. United Nations entities have assisted some States in becoming more inclusive. UNDP has supported advocacy strategies to promote more women candidates in Georgia and facilitated initiatives between women from different political parties in Uruguay to develop a common gender equality agenda. UNDP has compiled comparative experiences on the ways political parties advance women's participation and gender equality issues in a comprehensive guidebook.[29] UN-Women has supported the sensitization of political parties in southern Africa on the need to adopt gender-sensitive policies and to promote an enabling environment in which women can participate in elections, and has developed a check list for assessing the gender commitments of political parties in the Sudan.

E. Measures to address violence against women

49. Women must be able to vote, campaign and hold elected posts in a safe environment. Violence against women in political life discourages or prevents them from exercising their political rights, including their rights as voters, candidates, party supporters or public officials. The comprehensive investigation of allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates for political office is an important step in creating an environment conducive to women's political participation. Since recognition of such forms of violence is relatively new, few States report systematically about such incidences.

50. Eleven States reported on measures to investigate and prosecute violence against women in general.[30] Actions taken include strengthening laws against domestic and gender-based violence and the introduction of legislation to prevent, prosecute and eradicate violence against women. Heightening the gravity of sexual crimes is an effective deterrent, as reported by Italy, as are legislative measures

[29] UNDP and National Democratic Institute, *Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties: A Guidebook to Promote Women's Political Participation* (2012). Available from http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/gender%20and%20governance/EmpoweringWomenFor%20StrongerPoliticalParties.pdf.

[30] Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Djibouti, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro and Romania.

preserving victims' privacy and protecting them against pressures to withdraw accusations. Some States have enhanced service provisions to victims of gender-based violence, including hotlines and support groups.[31]

51. Few States reported specific measures designed to prevent violence against women during elections or against women holding elected posts. The Plurinational State of Bolivia reported specific legislation targeted at preventing and prosecuting physical, psychological and sexual violence against women in politics, establishing penalties for acts of political harassment and violence against women candidates and elected and acting officials at all levels of government. The Mexican Senate examined a report on political gender-based violence and approved a draft decree to reform the law on violence against women and the electoral code. It also established a definition of acts that constitute political gender-based violence, including acts that force women elected officials to tender their resignation or prevent them from resuming their duties following justifiable leave. Public awareness campaigns to prevent violence against women in politics are also important. Burkina Faso implemented a pre-electoral awareness campaign to combat all forms of violence in politics, including gender-based violence.

52. United Nations entities, such as UNDP and UN-Women, are supporting initiatives to prevent violence against women in elections. Women's situation rooms, as established in Kenya, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, bring together women and youth groups from civil society, the media, and the private and public sectors to work together to ensure peaceful electoral processes through advocacy, mediation, coordination, analysis, observation and documentation (see S/2012/732). The Department of Political Affairs and partners have introduced a training course on preventing and responding to electoral violence, which includes assessment of gender-based election violence. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported collaboration among various stakeholders in Madagascar to develop courses on gender equality, focusing on prevention of violence against women and women's political participation.

53. In general, solutions need to start with fact-based assessments, such as vulnerability mapping or violence monitoring, which can contribute to establishing the necessary evidence base in order to promote prevention and hold perpetrators accountable. Such efforts would also assist in better documenting the scope of the issue and would identify appropriate and effective mitigation measures.

F. Measures to promote a conducive environment

54. Many States reported on capacity-building initiatives for women's political participation.[32] Initiatives include providing peer support and capacity development for new office holders, promoting networking for women candidates and contacts with their constituencies, providing training to enable political parties to strengthen gender equality capacities and training aspiring women candidates for political office (including Cyprus, Guatemala, Japan and Montenegro). Training and skills

[31] Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Djibouti.

[32] Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Montenegro, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

development programmes cover topics such as electoral systems and processes, political leadership, campaigning, and information and communication technologies.

55. Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates reported political empowerment programmes to encourage women's participation. In Oman, a women's forum conducted research and held public events on women's empowerment. Guatemala included a training programme as part of a voter registration drive to inform women about their civic rights and responsibilities. Mexico reported that it includes gender-awareness training in the induction courses for new employees of the electoral management body. Greece implemented an awareness-raising campaign ahead of local elections, employing communications strategies such as television and radio spots, posters, billboards, leaflets and information kiosks to encourage voters to defy gender stereotypes in selecting their candidates. In Qatar, training on women's participation has been held with local institutions.

56. The media plays a critical role in creating an environment conducive to women's political participation since it can either perpetuate or challenge discriminatory norms and stereotypes, and contribute to increase or prevent women's access as voters or candidates to knowledge, role models and the public. Italy sponsored an initiative to establish a voluntary code for media outlets with guidelines on how to respect the image of women in media. In Cyprus, a programme promoted the visibility of women's issues and women candidates through an agreement with major media outlets to screen television spots urging citizens to vote for candidates of both sexes.

57. Some United Nations entities place particular emphasis on supporting States in building an environment conducive to women's participation. UN-Women worked in partnership with national partners in Mexico on the SUMA: Democracy is Equality initiative,[33] aiming to increase women's political participation by building knowledge and skills. It also supports women's capacity-building programmes in Cape Verde, Honduras, India, Jordan, Timor-Leste and other States. The Peacebuilding Support Office has supported civic education, dialogues and capacity development for women in Libya and Yemen. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has provided training in partnership with civil society organization in Haiti, South Sudan, Liberia and Timor-Leste. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has supported several States in promoting advocacy on women's political participation, and has implemented trainings, workshops and awareness-raising initiatives targeting Government officials, political parties and women's organizations. UNESCO is supporting the development of transformative leadership training for women in West Africa with various universities, targeting women from civil society. UNDP supports aspiring women candidates through trainings in Armenia, Djibouti, Libya and the Occupied Palestinian Territory; civic education in Papua New Guinea and Paraguay; the women's caucus in Pakistan; and dialogues between parliamentarians and civil society organizations to develop action plans on expanding women's political empowerment in Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam. UNDP and UN-Women have jointly carried out trainings in several countries on gender and elections, using the training methodology known as "Building Resources in democracy, governance and election". A United Nations system-wide effort led by the Department of Political Affairs resulted in the approval and

[33] SUMA (meaning sum of all parts) is an alliance of five civil society organizations working to increase the number of women in decision-making in Mexico.

dissemination of a common United Nations narrative on women's participation in political and electoral processes in 2012.

G. Youth participation

58. Initiatives targeting youth not only promote the participation of young women but can also have a sustainable, long-term impact by developing the capacity and confidence of a whole generation. Fourteen States reported on activities to enhance youth participation in civic education.[34] Good practices to support the political engagement of young women and girls focused on research, education of young women leaders and outreach to key community stakeholders. Several States reported actions to promote the sensitization and involvement of young people in public life, such as Croatia, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Saint Lucia and Switzerland, including the use of information technologies (games, applications and online contests) to promote youth participation at the local level, youth parliaments, youth representative programmes for participation in delegations at United Nations meetings, volunteer networks and national conferences on girls' leadership.

59. Mentoring is an important way to inspire girls and young women to strive towards assuming public and political leadership. Through the Equal Futures Partnership, launched by the United States of America,[35] opportunities for young women are expanded by highlighting women in public leadership as role models, encouraging research on girls and leadership, and supporting the development of online tools to interest girls in becoming public leaders. Programmes to promote youth political leadership at various levels (child parliaments, secondary school governments, regional associations) exist in many countries, including Djibouti and Switzerland. Other programmes capitalize on the technology savvy of youth by using web-based programmes to engage young people in local decision-making. In some cases, such as in Switzerland, the formation of youth parliaments are encouraged by convening regional or national conferences with them and/or assigning them a limited budget for community improvement programmes. In Djibouti, Oman and elsewhere, national institutions have been established to provide advisory services and take leadership in defining and implementing state policy for youth engagement.

60. Prioritization by the United Nations to promote youth participation is reflected in the 2013 United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth. The Action Plan commits United Nations entities to promoting an enabling environment for young people's participation in electoral and parliamentary processes, public administration and local governance at local, subnational and national levels. It includes a specific commitment to promoting the participation and presence of young women in political office at all levels. UNDP has supported youth initiatives with government and civil society partners to build the capacities of young women in political processes in Jordan, Lebanon and Kosovo, and regional initiatives to support youth participation in Latin America and the Caribbean. UN-Women has supported advocacy on young women's participation in Brazil, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, and

[34] Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Oman, Portugal, Saint Lucia and Switzerland.

[35] United States-led initiative in partnership with Australia, Benin, Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, Tunisia and the European Union.

skills development and mentorship for young women in Cameroon, Jordan and Uruguay.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

61. Important strides have been made by countries to promote women's political participation. Member States have reported various data illustrating numerical progress, and laws and other measures have been adopted and implemented, including capacity-building and sensitization campaigns. However, many obstacles remain. Member States cited gender-based discrimination, stereotypes and traditionally prescribed roles, unfavourable legal frameworks, lack of financial resources, lack of support by political parties and male incumbency as persistent challenges. There is also limited availability of comparable statistics on women's political participation across a range of areas, in particular at the local level and in appointed bodies.

62. A greater level of concerted action is needed to overcome the challenges and to ensure women's equal participation with men in political and public life. This is especially relevant in the light of the 20-year review appraisal and implementation of the Platform for Action, and the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals.

63. Member States are encouraged to show stronger political commitment by adopting comprehensive strategies that address the context-specific barriers to women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including in situations of political transition, such as:

(a) Ensuring a solid framework for gender equality, non-discrimination and women's equal participation through constitutional provisions, including the adoption of temporary special measures, in line with general recommendation No. 25 (2004) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Strengthening the legislative basis of gender balance at the national, subnational and local levels. This may include reviewing the political and social context to determine appropriate revisions to electoral laws, including electoral quotas, or reforming existing quota laws to ensure alternation or placement of women on the lists and effective implementation through enforcement mechanisms;

(c) Introducing political finance or other reforms that provide an incentive to political parties to increase the number of women candidates nominated, in particular when quotas are not in place, or earmarking funds for women candidates and/or women's wings within political parties;

(d) Increasing the proportion of women in appointed positions, including at the executive and ministerial levels across all sectors and ministries;

(e) Ensuring that data on women's political participation at all levels is systematically collected, including for appointed and elected positions, and that sex-disaggregated data is reported on candidates, voter registration and voter turnout;

(f) Supporting data collection on women's leadership in the judiciary, police, political parties, trade unions, professional or industry associations and community-based organizations;

(g) Recognizing and assessing the types of electoral and political violence that women encounter as voters, candidates and elected or appointed officials, and ensuring adequate legal provisions under which to prevent and prosecute it and protect women from it;

(h) Facilitating an enabling environment for women in political life, including through targeted awareness campaigns, media incentives and public recognition of the value of women's participation and contributions;

(i) Supporting young people, especially girls, to consider political careers, including through access to and visibility of role models, supportive mentoring programmes, and initiatives promoting youth participation and leadership.

64. As gatekeepers to the political process, political parties are encouraged to adopt reforms that promote women's leadership and participation at all levels, such as:

(a) Revising party statutes, policies and regulations, or adopting new ones, to include commitments to non-discrimination and gender equality;

(b) Adopting and enforcing temporary special measures to increase the proportion of women nominated for political office and in party leadership structures, including through electoral quotas;

(c) Creating and strengthening dedicated party forums and structures, such as women's wings or units, where appropriate, to demonstrate commitment to gender equality and to addressing women's issues within and outside the party;

(d) Investing in educational tools and programmes to support aspiring political leaders, in particular young women, including capacity-building and practical training on campaign messages, legal requirements, fundraising and campaign management.

65. The United Nations system and other international and regional organizations are encouraged to:

(a) Support and complement Member State efforts to provide data on women's political participation by establishing a mechanism to develop standards for data collection and to track the data worldwide on a regular basis;

(b) Increase assistance to support Member States in their national efforts by implementing training to support women in participating in electoral processes, political activities and other leadership activities;

(c) Increase assistance to support Member States in substantially enhancing women's political participation, including through building capacity and the sharing of experiences and best practices;

(d) Provide sustained, long-term support to national partners, including civil society organizations, in their efforts to become more gender sensitive and promote women's political participation.

United Nations A/68/185

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Item 69 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 67/171, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on its implementation to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council, including information on efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development.

2. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 21/32, requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to submit to the Council an annual report on its activities, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion and realization of the right to development.

3. In accordance with the practice established as a result of the timing of the reporting cycle, the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development is submitted to both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Therefore, the report of the Secretary-General on the right to development submitted to the Assembly pursuant to resolution 67/171, is contained in document A/HRC/24/27.

* A/68/150.

13-40785 (E) 070813

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United Nations A/68/186

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Item 135 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327, A/61/189, A/62/220, A/63/257, A/64/91, A/65/347, A/66/188, and A/67/165).

The United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a gateway for public-private partnerships with the United Nations system in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals. The Office oversees the following areas:

(a) **United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP).** UNFIP was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2012, the cumulative allocations provided by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP to projects implemented by the United Nations system reached approximately $1.2 billion. Of that amount, $0.4 billion (34 per cent) represents core Turner funds and $0.8 billion (66 per cent) was generated from other co-financing partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported through the end of 2012 by the Foundation through UNFIP stands at 534. Collectively, these projects have been implemented by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries;

* A/68/150.

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(b) **United Nations Democracy Fund**. The Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled approximately $110 million to more than 400 projects in 150 countries around the world, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and young people, to media programmes allowing civil society to project its voice.

(c) **Partnership Advisory services and outreach**. These services were initiated in 2006 in response to the growing demand from the United Nations system, Governments and non-State actors on how best to develop and implement public-private partnerships. The Office hosts high-impact events and provides advice to potential partners regarding procedures and best practices; assists in the design of programmes and projects; helps to establish and manage global and regional networks; and promotes the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for action.

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I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. The work of UNFIP is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. At the end of 2012, the cumulative allocations to UNFIP projects reached approximately $1.2 billion; $0.4 billion of that amount came from core Turner funds and $0.8 billion (approximately 66 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. A total of 534 projects have been implemented by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries. An overview of these programmes and initiatives is provided below.

A. Global health with emphasis on children's health

3. The year 2012 proved to be significant for global health, with a series of catalytic moments shaping the future landscape for the United Nations Foundation's work in the coming years. In June, the Governments of Ethiopia, India and the United States of America, together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), launched a new effort to further increase the decline in child mortality over the next 20 years. In July, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with strong support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), catalysed more than $2.3 billion for family planning over the next eight years to cut the unmet need (i.e., the number of women who want access to family planning but do not have it) in half. In September, the United Nations Commission on Life-saving Commodities for Women and Children, supported by UNICEF and UNFPA and led by the Governments of Nigeria and Norway, launched a new global action plan to accelerate access to 13 neglected maternal, newborn and child-health commodities in the coming years.

4. All these efforts were undertaken under the broader framework of the Secretary-General's initiative "Every woman, every child", which has continued to galvanize new commitments since its launch in September 2010. The United Nations Foundation continues to play an integral role in cultivating commitments for the initiative as well as advocacy and communications to support this important global health agenda.

Polio

5. The United Nations Foundation continued its role as an active member of the Polio Advocacy Group. Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Group aims to catalyse sufficient funding to enable the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to interrupt the transmission of the disease in all countries and complete the final phases of global eradication. As at September, the Initiative faced a funding gap of $790 million for 2012 and 2013 activities, which forced the cancellation of immunization campaigns in 24 countries where risk of re-importation of the virus remained high. In June, the Initiative's Independent Monitoring Board described the lack of sufficient funding as the primary risk to eradication.

6. The United Nations Foundation led an effort with Polio Advocacy Group partners to convene the first high-level event on polio eradication under the Secretary-General's leadership in 20 years. The event, which was held in September, featured Heads of State from the endemic countries and led to commitments of new funding from long-standing and new donors, including a three-year, $250 million loan from the Islamic Development Bank to Pakistan and new financial commitments from Rotary International, the Government of Japan, and others.

7. The United Nations Foundation remains engaged in the WHO-led effort to develop the new Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which was shared with the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization in November 2012. In 2012, the Foundation mobilized $21,500 in grant funding through UNFIP to WHO in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Measles

8. Since 2001, the Measles and Rubella Initiative has supported vaccinations in over 80 countries, decreasing global measles mortality by 74 per cent while raising routine coverage of measles from 72 per cent to 85 per cent. Five of the six regions designated by WHO have set elimination targets by or before 2020, and the sixth, which includes Bangladesh, India and Indonesia, was expected to set its target date in February 2013 at the regional committee meeting.

9. Measles outbreaks continued to occur in 2012, but they were smaller in size and number, which encouraged countries to accelerate efforts to reach their agreed elimination goals. This led several countries to request additional support for campaigns vaccinating children, including up to 15 years of age, based upon surveillance data indicating more cases in older age groups.

10. The Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012-2020 was launched in late April 2012. The goal is a world without measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome.

11. During 2012, the United Nations Foundation mobilized just over $32.1 million for the Measles and Rubella Initiative, which is implemented by WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with national Governments. Of that amount, $30.1 million was third-party co-financing and $2.0 million represented United Nations Foundation core funds. The main sources of co-financing were the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the GAVI Alliance, Lions Clubs International, Merck and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

12. In 2014, measles and measles/rubella campaigns are scheduled in 21 countries, including India, targeting over 232 million children. In that context, the United Nations Foundation will continue to play an integral role in supporting advocacy, communications and resource mobilization for the Measles and Rubella Initiative.

Malaria

13. Through the Nothing But Nets campaign, the United Nations Foundation continued to contribute to the United Nations goal of ending malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. To that end, it has further developed a focused advocacy dimension within the United States over the past year.

14. During 2012, the Nothing But Nets campaign continued raising money from its support base of 150,000 individual donors for the funding of anti-malaria bednets to protect the most vulnerable populations in Africa and successfully integrated advocacy into all facets of the campaign.

15. Several milestones were achieved in 2012. Nothing But Nets sent its six millionth net to its partners in Africa and its one millionth net to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help to protect refugees across the continent from malaria. More importantly, WHO announced that a child now dies from malaria every 60 seconds, down from every 30 seconds when the campaign began in 2006. Furthermore, malaria has dropped from the number one killer of refugees on the continent to number five. This is especially significant because Nothing But Nets is the largest provider of bednets to refugees.

16. During the course of 2012, the United Nations Foundation mobilized third-party funding for project grants valued at $2.9 million through UNFIP to support the purchase and distribution of anti-malaria bednets by UNICEF and UNHCR.

Shot@Life campaign

17. The year 2012 was the first year of full operations for the Shot@Life campaign, a United States-focused advocacy and fundraising campaign to provide vaccines against measles and polio including vaccines provided through the GAVI Alliance. The initial focus has been on laying the groundwork by training approximately 200 "grass-roots champions" and securing partners to support the campaign by raising awareness and funds and advocating for global vaccines.

18. To date, the campaign has raised $330,000 to support the measles and polio work of UNICEF and WHO as well as the work by GAVI Alliance on pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines; Shot@Life has become an important voice on Capitol Hill in support of global vaccines.

B. Sustainable energy and climate change

19. It is a simple fact that development is not possible without energy, and sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, "Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive." The world's energy systems must be transformed to meet the needs of the 1.3 billion people who lack access to electricity and the 3 billion people who do not have access to clean and safe cooking facilities and to accelerate a shift towards sustainable energy use to safeguard the Earth's climate.

Sustainable Energy for All

20. To meet the global energy and sustainability challenge, the United Nations Foundation has worked closely with United Nations partners over the past several years to launch and galvanize support for the Secretary-General's initiative "Sustainable Energy for All". This initiative seeks to mobilize global action in support of achieving the following three interlinked objectives by 2030:

(a) Ensuring universal access to modern energy services;

(b) Doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency;

(c) Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

21. The United Nations Foundation served as the fiduciary for the initiative up until the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

22. Specific United Nations Foundation contributions to the initiative and to the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All in 2012 included:

(a) Serving as the fiduciary for the $6 million first phase of the initiative, which was supported by Denmark, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission;

(b) Assisting with the drafting and revising of the three principal reports relating to the initiative: a vision statement by the Secretary-General (see A/66/645), a Framework for Action[1] and a Global Action Agenda (see A/67/175);

(c) Leading and coordinating a global communications and outreach effort on the initiative and its three objectives, including global and regional roll-out events in Abu Dhabi, New Delhi, Nairobi, Brussels and Barbados;

(d) Developing and strengthening the work of the Energy Access Practitioner Network as bottom-up support to Sustainable Energy for All.

23. On 24 September, during the opening week of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, a high-level meeting was held for Member States to communicate progress on the initiative. At the meeting, the Secretary-General announced the initiative's new governance structure, namely, that he and new World Bank President Jim Yong Kim would co-chair a newly constituted Advisory Board for the initiative and that Kandeh Yumkella would serve as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and as the initiative's Chief Executive Officer in Vienna.

C. Women and population

24. The United Nations has a vast mandate to address gender inequality and women's empowerment. At the heart of this is a web of international agreements and principles, including those relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals, that commit the entire global community to addressing the rights and needs of women and girls.

25. The United Nations Foundation works together with the United Nations and other partners to promote gender equality and empower women and girls, with a particular focus on reproductive and sexual health and rights, adolescent girls and women's economic empowerment.

Reproductive health advocacy

26. In 2012, there were new opportunities for the United Nations Foundation to contribute to key international conferences on international reproductive health and

[1] Available from www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sustainableenergyforall/home/documents.

family planning. In particular, the London Summit on Family Planning (July 2012) brought together partners from around the world to mobilize global policy, financing, commodity, and service delivery commitments to provide access to voluntary contraception to 120 million more women around the world. The Foundation conducted a wide range of public-facing and behind-the-scenes activities in support of the summit and has been asked by the summit's core partners (the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Gates Foundation, UNFPA and the United States Agency for International Development) to play a significant role in the follow-up activities to ensure progress is made against the summit's commitments. An additional component of the Foundation's support included launching a pillar for the MDG Health Alliance dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. The Alliance is committed to accelerating improvement in the health-related Goals, and this pillar will aim to ensure universal voluntary access to a full range of contraceptive methods, services and information for women and girls.

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls

27. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has invested millions of dollars in integrated programmes to address the rights and needs of adolescent girls. These investments have achieved programme and policy results, strengthened United Nations capacity and commitment, increased support and laid the foundation for an evidence base on why and how to invest in girls.

28. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls, which is co-chaired by UNFPA and UNICEF and includes the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO and UNHCR, works to support the United Nations and its partners in advancing policies and programmes for adolescent girls.

29. With funding from the Packard Foundation, the United Nations Foundation has enabled the Task Force to integrate a focus on adolescent girls in the work of the United Nations. In 2012, the Task Force began to develop a strategy for long-term sustainability, including resource mobilization, business and communications plans; continued to develop technical programme guidance materials on how to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls; provided technical support to and cultivated interest from countries to develop adolescent girl programmes, resulting in over 10 new concept notes from country programmes; hosted events that promote girls' issues on the global agenda; took on collective advocacy; and increased coordination among the agencies involved. The Foundation also provided funding support for the Global Coordinator for the Task Force.

Girl Up campaign

30. Launched by the United Nations Foundation in September 2010, Girl Up has evolved into both an advocacy and fundraising campaign with a long-term goal of creating a community of 1 million Americans, primarily teenage girls, to become global leaders, including by pushing for stronger United States Government policies that benefit adolescent girls in developing countries. To date, Girl Up has engaged over 260,000 constituents in the campaign.

31. In honour of the first-ever International Day of the Girl Child, the United Nations Foundation helped to raise awareness about the work of the Organization and other partners by advancing the rights of girls around the world. Girl Up clubs and supporters in nine different countries hosted more than 50 grass-roots International Day events that ranged from pep rallies to letter-writing campaigns.

32. In addition to the contributions of individuals, the Girl Up campaign is supported by the Gates Foundation, Levi Strauss, Johnson & Johnson and American Express.

33. The United Nations Foundation supports United Nations adolescent girl empowerment programmes in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia and Malawi. In 2012, the Foundation mobilized $614,716 in grants through UNFIP in support of United Nations-led programmes for adolescent girls.

D. Post-2015 development agenda

34. The United Nations has begun a process to determine development priorities and hopes to reach an agreement on a framework that would continue the momentum of the Millennium Development Goals after they expire in 2015. The Secretary-General has appointed a high-level panel, co-chaired by the Heads of State of Indonesia, Liberia and the United Kingdom, to advise him on a bold and practical plan.

35. At the request of the Office of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Foundation has supported the process in several key ways. With support from the Gates Foundation, the Foundation provided the initial funds through UNFIP to support the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, Ms. Amina Mohammed, a Nigerian national who was previously in charge of implementing the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

36. In addition, the United Nations Foundation has hosted several off-the-record discussions to advance dialogue and provide a forum for Member States and other stakeholders to informally explore ideas relating to the post-2015 process.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

37. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established by the Secretary-General at the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations General Trust Fund and launched in April 2006, with the United Nations Office for Partnerships providing administrative support and common services. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word "democracy" in its name, the only United Nations entity with the primary purpose of supporting democracy by empowering civil society, and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of the Fund's project financing goes to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the "demand" rather than "supply" side of democratization, the Fund plays a new, distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations — for example, the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

38. Since its establishment, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, donor base, impact and visibility. Its projects are aimed at strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and encouraging the participation of all groups in democratic processes. It also supports a number of major global and regional projects with a normative and policy focus. In its first five rounds of funding, the Fund supported more than 400 projects in some 150 countries, with a total disbursement of more than $140 million. They ranged from supporting civil society efforts to promote accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law and strengthening women's and youth groups.

A. Sixth round of projects

39. In 2012, the Fund began funding its sixth round of projects, including its first in a number of challenging environments, such as Libya, Nicaragua and Uzbekistan. The round opened for proposals in November 2011 through an online application system that facilitates access by civil society organizations. A total of 2,868 applications from organizations in more than 140 countries were received, reflecting continuing strong global demand for the Fund's services. The vast majority of proposals were submitted by local civil society organizations.

40. The first stage of project selection was based on scoring by independent experts against set criteria. High-scoring proposals were then subject to rigorous quality control and due diligence, including by United Nations resident coordinators and, where applicable, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, as well as all entities of the Fund's Programme Consultative Group. On the basis of this review, the Advisory Board of the Fund recommended a shortlist of projects, after which the Fund advised Permanent Missions of Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Shortlisted applicants were asked to submit draft project documents by midyear, which were then negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding were disbursed by September. This timeline of less than nine months between the closing of applications and the disbursement of the first tranches of funding compares favourably with international standards.

41. In the sixth round, 68 projects were funded, at a total cost of $14,290,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects broke down as follows:

(a) Community development (28 per cent);

(b) Youth (21 per cent);

(c) Rule of law and human rights (16 per cent);

(d) Women's empowerment (16 per cent);

(e) Media (16 per cent);

(f) Strengthening instrumentalities of government (3 per cent).

42. Throughout 2012, the Fund collected the required reports on projects funded under the second through fifth Rounds, conducted the closing of completed projects from the first and second Rounds and reported on its achievements to the Advisory Board.

B. Donor base

43. The Fund undertook a number of initiatives to strengthen its donor base, which continued to grow despite the continuing impact of the global financial crisis. A series of outreach activities were conducted by existing major donors to encourage others. Tunisia contributed to the Fund for the first time, expanding the group of donors to 41 Member States. The cumulative total amount of contributions received between 2005 and 2012 exceeded $140 million.

C. Evaluation

44. The Fund's contracted firm of internationally renowned evaluators, Transtec, had completed 60 post-project evaluations by the end of 2012. The vast majority of the evaluations were positive and provided valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. The Fund published all post-project evaluations on its website, as decided by the Advisory Board. In this way, the Fund consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities in the United Nations family.

D. Governance

45. The two governing mechanisms of the Board, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role in 2012. A new Advisory Board was appointed by the Secretary-General in January 2012 for a two-year term. This included the eight largest contributors to the Fund, namely, Australia, France, Germany, India, Japan, Spain, Sweden and the United States; six countries reflecting geographical diversity and commitment to democratic principles, namely, Jamaica, Lithuania, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay; three members serving in an individual capacity, Professor Michael Doyle of Columbia University, who continued to serve as Chair of the Board; Ms. Shazia Rafi, Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for Global Action; and Mr. Jeffrey Wright, award-winning actor and Chairman of the Taia Peace Foundation, which works in Sierra Leone; and two civil society organizations, Third World Network and the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

46. In addition to recommending funding proposals for the Secretary-General's approval, the Advisory Board provided him with policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines. The Programme Consultative Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN-Women.

E. Seventh round of projects

47. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its seventh round of project proposals in November 2012. When applications closed on 31 December 2012, the Fund had received 3,013 project proposals — the second highest number in its history. The vast majority of applications came from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, seventh round applications were to be assessed by March 2013 and the Advisory Board was to recommend a shortlist in April, after which the Fund was to advise the Permanent Missions of Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then to be submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Shortlisted applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by midyear, to be negotiated with the Fund, and the first tranches of project funding were to be disbursed by September, again in a timeline comparing favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

Democracy in action I: A centre to engage women in Libya's democratic processes

48. The first Fund project in Libya finances a new centre of excellence to mainstream Libyan women in politics and develop a nationwide civic education strategy. The centre trains women in democratic processes and institutions, gender, and leadership and interpersonal skills, and acts as a meeting place and hub for training and mentoring women from the country as a whole. Once the project completes its pilot phase, it will present the Government with a plan to introduce the training across the entire country. The project is being implemented by the Libyan Women's Forum, with the overall objective of helping to secure an influential role for women in decision-making and democratization and enabling them to play an effective role in the development of Libya.

Democracy in action II: Using the arts to take action for women's rights in Nicaragua

49. The Fund's first project in Nicaragua promotes the implementation of the Integral Law on Violence Against Women by using performing and visual arts to change mindsets and encourage meaningful action. The project presents complex problems in more than 200 theatre performances and works of visual art so that audiences can follow the characters and understand the issues in depth. The project has an innovative focus in that beneficiaries and local authorities are directly involved. The project is being implemented by Movimiento de Teatro Popular sin Fronteras, a local civil society organization.

Democracy in action III: Media, government and civil society dialogue in Uzbekistan

50. The Fund's first project in Uzbekistan is aimed at improving the quality of interaction among Government institutions, the public and the media in order to foster democratization and intercultural dialogue. It encourages dialogue and builds the capacity of the media, the Government and civil society to provide timely, high-

quality information to the public. The project is being implemented by Regional Dialogue, the local branch of a civil society organization based in Slovenia.

III. Partnership advisory services and outreach

51. Throughout its history, the United Nations system has worked with the private sector and civil society. In the 2005 World Summit outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1), Member States recognized the importance of, and expressed strong support for, the active engagement of non-State actors in promoting the development agenda of the United Nations system.

52. The United Nations Office for Partnerships works in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation to promote and implement partnership advisory services and outreach initiatives. The Office fosters innovative strategies for engaging non-State actors, including global corporations, philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations, to help meet United Nations objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Selection of key projects and initiatives

53. The following list of key partnership initiatives is divided into three partner categories: Member States; United Nations system and other international organizations; and the private sector and civil society.

1. Member States

Permanent Memorial at the United Nations to the Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

54. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to assist the Permanent Memorial Committee in implementing a comprehensive media, outreach and resource mobilization strategy aimed at erecting a permanent memorial monument at the United Nations Headquarters complex. The Permanent Memorial Committee includes nine Member States, the African Union, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), UNESCO, the Department of Public Information and other organizations, and is chaired by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations. The Office administers the Trust Fund in relation to receipts, allocations and disbursements of the resources. As at 31 December 2012, contributions totalled $1,350,739, the bulk of which was received from Member States.

New York Forum AFRICA and Dialogue for Action Africa
(8 to 11 June 2012)

55. The United Nations Office for Partnerships supported the first session of the New York Forum AFRICA, hosted by the President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba, in collaboration with Richard Attias & Associates and the Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation. The Office also supported Dialogue for Action Africa 2012, co-hosted by the Cecilia Attias Foundation for Women, in association with Sylvia Bongo Ondimba, the First Lady of Gabon. The two events were held in Libreville from 8 to 10 June and on 11 June respectively.

56. The New York Forum AFRICA consisted of three days of intensive discussions, meetings of collaborative task forces and high-level plenary sessions, with a focus on the key economic and business issues confronting Africa. Over 700 corporate leaders from Africa and the rest of the world joined Heads of State, policymakers and globally recognized experts to create actions addressing key topics such as investments, governance and trade.

57. The keynote addresses were given by the host, President Ali Bongo Ondimba, and the President of Benin and Chairperson of the African Union, Thomas Yayi Boni.

58. Dialogue for Action Africa, held in conjunction with the New York Forum AFRICA, is an annual action-oriented gathering of the world's leading business, economic and regulatory officials, seeking to build cross-cutting innovative partnerships between the worlds of business and non-governmental organizations.

Chinese Business Leaders Forum
(17 August 2012)

59. The United Nations Office for Partnerships and the organization Friendship Across Frontiers co-hosted a high-level briefing at the United Nations on 17 August for 30 Chinese chief executive officers and entrepreneurs from leading companies, as part of a State Council of China training programme.

60. Featured United Nations speakers included Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, and Nicholas Rosellini, UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

2. United Nations system and other international organizations

Breaking new ground: Partnerships for more and better jobs for young people
(27 February 2012)

61. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Global Compact co-hosted the annual high-level meeting to highlight International Corporate Philanthropy Day which, in 2012, focused on "Breaking new ground: Partnerships for more and better jobs for young people".

62. The conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 27 February, brought together leaders from the private sector and foundations, as well as government and civil society representatives to discuss lessons learned and call for action to address youth unemployment, in line with the 2012 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council.

Global Forum on Electric Mobility
(18 June 2012)

63. The United Nations Office for Partnerships helped to plan and served as a co-host of the "Global Forum on Electric Mobility: Greening Transport for Sustainable Development". This one-day event, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on

18 June, was organized in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

64. The Forum focused on the opportunities and challenges for market growth and development of the electric mobility industry globally and featured insights and perspectives from industry analysts, major manufacturers and suppliers, and government officials at the national and municipal levels representing both established and emerging markets.

65. The event was co-hosted with the Brazilian Electric Vehicle Association, Eletrobras Furnas (of the Eletrobras Group, Latin America's largest power utility holding company), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Global Forum on Human Settlements, the Foundation for Social Change and AboveLive (a social media company).

Women Leaders Forum. Connecting women and youth for digital development
(24 September 2012)

66. The United Nations Office for Partnerships, in collaboration with the Advanced Development for Africa Foundation, the Global Partnerships Forum and the Digital He@lth Initiative, co-hosted a major gathering of business, government, civil society and United Nations leaders at the third annual Women Leaders Forum: Connecting women and youth for digital development. The Forum met in parallel with the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on 24 September to discuss digital inclusion as a means of scaling up efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with a view to 2015 and beyond and as a prerequisite for development.

67. Gender equity and youth empowerment have been the missing links in the human development value chain for too long. Yet, despite the explosion in extreme innovation and extreme affordability brought on by the digital revolution, the full impact in hea!th, energy, education and economic empowerment has only begun to be realized.

3. Private sector and civil society

Investor Summit on Climate Risk and Energy Solutions
(12 January 2012)

68. Since 2003, the biennial Investor Summit on Climate Risk and Energy Solutions at the United Nations has been the pre-eminent forum for leading institutional investors in North America, Europe and the rest of the world to discuss the implications of climate change for capital markets.

69. On 12 January, nearly 500 of the world's most influential financial actors gathered at the United Nations to discuss promising trends in the large-scale investment needed to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate potentially catastrophic climate impacts.

70. While progress is being made, the investors, convened by Ceres, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships agreed that much more needs to be done to slow the pollution that is changing Earth's climate and triggering a rise in disruptive weather events. Certain strategies for mitigating

climate risks present attractive investment opportunities with potential for strong and sustained growth.

TEDx event, United Nations Headquarters
(18 January 2012)

71. The TEDx programme was created in the spirit of the mission of the non-profit organization TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design), namely, "ideas worth spreading". The programme was designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue at the local level.

72. The United Nations Office for Partnerships supported the first TEDx event held at United Nations Headquarters, on 18 January. The event agenda, themed "Working together on development in an ever-more wireless world", showcased a combination of compelling TED talks, videos and live presentations that sparked deep conversations and connections.

Fifth World Conference on Women and Sport
(16 to 18 February 2012)

73. The International Olympic Committee, in coordination with the United States Olympic Committee and the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, held the fifth World Conference on Women and Sport from 16 to 18 February in Los Angeles, United States.

74. The three-day conference, entitled "Together Stronger: The Future of Sport", sought to identify ways to improve and increase the participation of women in the world of sport. Over the past 20 years, much progress has been made in providing equal opportunities for women and girls globally. The outcome document of the conference highlights that only through collaboration and partnerships can full equality be reached.

75. The conference, opened by Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, brought together both men and women from over 130 countries. The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, Roland Rich, spoke at the plenary session on "Partnerships for Progress".

The role of business in empowering women
(8 March 2012)

76. In celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Business Civic Leadership Center of the United States Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the annual women's forum at Headquarters. The theme of the 2012 forum was "The role of business in empowering women", with participants ranging from leaders of Fortune 500 companies, social entrepreneurs, foundation presidents, representatives of international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

77. Opening remarks were delivered by Al Martinez-Fonts, the Executive Vice-President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and Roland Rich, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, delivered the keynote remarks and urged Governments and businesses to work together, stressing that advances in gender

equality are economically and socially advantageous for Governments as well as businesses.

78. Built around three interactive panel discussions, the Forum allowed for in-depth and dynamic dialogues on enhancing women's financial inclusion, building enabling environments for women to thrive as entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for women to participate in commerce through inclusive and transparent supply chains.

2012 Infopoverty World Conference on "Who Drives the Digital Revolution? Development through Innovation"
(22 and 23 March 2012)

79. On 22 and 23 March, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted the Infopoverty Conference at Headquarters. The Conference is an annual flagship event led by the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication, an Italian non-governmental organization supported by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the Infopoverty Institute at the University of Oklahoma, the European Parliament Information Office and the European Commission Office in Milan, Italy.

80. The conference examined the digital divide between North and South and looked for innovative ways to bridge that divide.

Social Innovation Summit 2012
(31 May 2012)

81. The United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted, in partnership with Landmark Ventures, the Social Innovation Summit 2012 at Headquarters on 31 May.

82. The summit was tailored to executive leaders interested in discussing the strategies and business innovations effecting social transformation across the corporate, investment, government and non-profit sectors. Participants included hundreds of Fortune 500 corporate executives, venture investors, government leaders, emerging market investors, foundation heads and social entrepreneurs, who gathered to discuss social challenges, analyse innovative approaches and build lasting partnerships that enable them and their organizations to bring about positive social change.

Blouin Creative Leadership Summit
(20 and 21 September 2012)

83. The annual Blouin Creative Leadership Summit was held on 20 and 21 September 2012 at the Metropolitan Club in New York. Since its establishment in 2006, in a strategic partnership with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the annual summit brings together world leaders from a wide array of disciplines. In a think tank discussion format, government and business leaders engage with directors of global agencies, leading chief executive officers, Nobel laureates, technology innovators and pioneering researchers. The summit is a platform to develop tangible solutions and build networks in order to address the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization.

84. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, delivered the keynote address. Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, and Angela Kane,

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, gathered for a panel discussion on global security challenges, particularly those posed by asymmetric threats. Other featured United Nations speakers included, Robert C. Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, and Roland Rich, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

The Africa investor Institutional Investment Summit
(21 September 2012)

85. The annual Institutional Investment Summit, held by Africa investor, is a platform for global institutional investors and pension funds to engage chief executive officers from African listed companies and pension funds. The summit, held in association with the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Euronext and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, among other supporting organizations, attracted over 250 global investment leaders, pension funds, chief executive officers from African listed companies, fund managers, regulators and stock exchanges.

86. Hubert Danso, chief executive officer of Africa investor, opened the summit and received a welcome from Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Duncan Niederauer, Chief Executive Officer of NYSE Euronext, gave the keynote address. In-depth panel discussions included a high-level interactive review of Africa's capital market investment climate, African pension fund capital supporting Africa's growth, a global investors' round table on Africa, Africa's investment success stories, and the asset classes to watch in 2013.

87. The event included an investment working lunch consultation for African Heads of State, which was opened by Maged Abdelaziz, Special Adviser on Africa and included an address by Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO. The keynote address was given by Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria.

WIE Symposium New York
(22 and 23 September 2012)

88. The United Nations Office for Partnerships supported the WIE Symposium New York, held on 22 and 23 September at the New School in New York.

89. The WIE Symposium is a dynamic conference designed to inspire and empower women and girls. The event brought together prominent leaders from the worlds of politics, business, fashion, philanthropy, media, entertainment and the arts, in two full days of lively panels, workshops, master classes and an inspirational awards ceremony. The symposium provides a networking opportunity for women and girls, allowing them to connect with their peers and be inspired by their mentors.

90. The theme for 2012 was "The New Guard" and featured such topics as the business of creativity, harnessing the potential of e-commerce, presentation and pitching skills for entrepreneurs, and body image and the media.

Pearl Initiative round-table luncheon on corporate accountability in the Arab world
(24 September 2012)

91. In cooperation with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the Pearl Initiative, a private sector-led non-profit organization established to improve

transparency, accountability and business practices in the Arab world, held a round-table luncheon on corporate accountability at Headquarters on 24 September.

92. The high-level round table marked the two-year anniversary of the launch of the Pearl Initiative and brought together business leaders from the public sector and private companies, State-owned enterprises and family firms, Gulf region Government leaders, United Nations officials and Ambassadors and heads of non-governmental organizations and foundations to discuss the current state and the future of corporate accountability and transparency in the region.

Global Conference for Social Change
(9 November 2012)

93. The United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Foundation for Social Change co-hosted the third annual Global Conference for Social Change at the New York University Stern School of Business on 9 November. The conference serves as a platform to honour companies and business leaders who have demonstrated leadership in corporate responsibility. The companies profiled are in the vanguard of their respective sectors in understanding that pursuing socially and ecologically responsible practices benefits business and society by opening new markets and generating significant value for their customers, shareholders and stakeholders, including the communities in which they operate.

IV. Conclusions

94. Robert E. (Ted) Turner's historic philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has greatly increased interest from non-State actors, including foundations and private companies, in engaging with the United Nations.

95. The relationship agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, originally established in 1998 and subsequently renewed in 2007, is being reviewed to ensure that it is updated to reflect the evolution of the Foundation's collaboration with the United Nations. Beyond its grant-making role, the United Nations Foundation is producing significant impacts throughout the United Nations system. This evolved mission and approach was demonstrated by the Foundation's leadership initiatives and campaigns for United Nations causes in a number of ways during 2012, as reflected in th previous sections of the present report.

96. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now six years old and has proved to be an excellent initiative by the General Assembly. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations. With almost 3,000 applications received in 2011 for the 2012 round of funding, the Fund supports democratization efforts around the world and has become a critically important resource for civil society, particularly in the global South.

97. While the operations of UNFIP and the United Nations Democracy Fund remain the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the Office has continued to provide event support and advisory services to a wide range of Member States as well as non-State actors that seek to partner with the United Nations system.

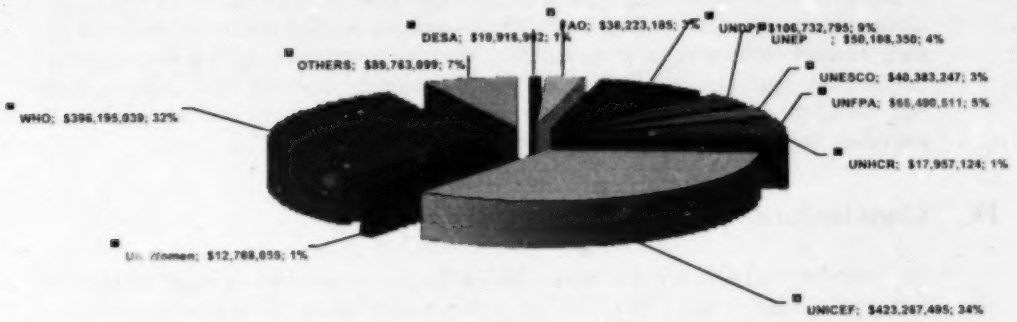
Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships distribution of funds and projects

A. Funds received from the United Nations Foundation 1998-2012 distributed by implementing partners

Total United Nations Foundation approved grant: $1,250,805,861

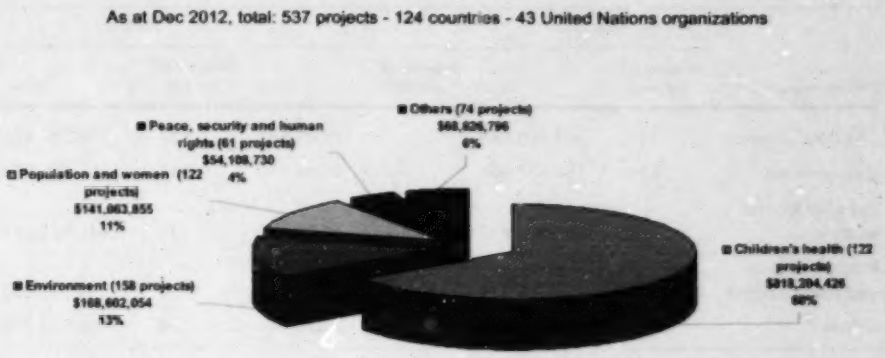
(In United States dollars)



B. Thematic distribution of projects funded by the United Nations Foundation 1998-2012

Total United Nations Foundation approved grant: $1,250,805,861

(In United States dollars)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

Annex II

Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2012 and in prior years by programme area

(In United States dollars)

	1998-2011		*2012*		*1998-2012*	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*
Children's health	115	760 560 885	7	57 643 541	122	818 204 426
Environment	154	164 837 304	4	3 764 750	158	168 602 054
Population and women	121	140 990 540	1	73 315	122	141 063 855
Peace, security and human rights	61	54 108 730	–	–	61	54 108 730
Others	73	66 376 093	1	2 450 703	74	68 826 796
Total	**524**	**1 186 873 552**	**13**	**63 932 309**	**537**	**1 250 805 861**

Annex III

Composition of the 2012 Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

George Talbot (Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations), Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly

Miloš Koterec (Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations), President of the Economic and Social Council

Franklin A. Thomas, Head, The Ford Foundation Study Group

Douglas Conant, former President and Chief Executive Officer, Campbell Soup Company; replaced by Susan M. Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA (appointed on 16 October 2012)

Mary Oakes Smith, President, Iraqi Women's Fellowship Foundation; replaced by Kati Marton, author, reporter and human rights advocate (appointed on 30 January 2012)

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Roland Rich, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Annex IV

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2012

(In United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution*
Argentina	10 000
Australia	8 739 324
Bulgaria	10 000
Chile	280 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czech Republic	195 780
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	12 578 088
Hungary	75 000
India	29 710 000
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	709 220
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 000 000
Latvia	5 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	17 000
Peru	35 000
Poland	388 510
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 000 000
Romania	422 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 002 995

Donor	*Cumulative contribution*
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	9 309 948
Tunisia	5 000
Turkey	175 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	609 350
United States of America	43 095 000
Total	**141 010 702**

Annex V

Composition of the 2012 Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund

Member States

Australia

France

Germany

India

Jamaica

Lithuania

Spain

Sweden

Timor-Leste

Tunisia

United Republic of Tanzania

United States of America

Uruguay

Non-governmental organizations

Women's Environment and Development Organization

Third World Network

Individuals

Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of International Affairs, Law and Political Science, Columbia University

Shazia Rafi, Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for Global Action

Jeffrey Wright, Chairman of the Taia Peace Foundation, Sierra Leone

United Nations A/68/187

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Items 135 and 141 of the provisional agenda*

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Human resources management

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of section III of its resolution 65/268, decided that the conditions of service and compensation, other than the annual net compensation, of the full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be reviewed every four years, with the next review to be conducted at its sixty-eighth session.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of section III of that resolution, such reports as the present report are, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for other agenda items, to be submitted directly to the General Assembly.

II. Background

3. In its resolution 35/221, the General Assembly decided that the compensation and other conditions of service of the full-time members of the Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee would be reviewed normally every five years. The last such review was conducted in 2000 at the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly. By its resolution 55/238, the Assembly took note of the relevant report of

* A/68/150.

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the Secretary-General (A/C.5/55/29), in which the sixtieth session of the Assembly, in 2005, was identified for the next review.

4. Following the review in 2005, the General Assembly, in paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 58/266, requested the Secretary-General to bring the issue of conditions of service and compensation of the three officials to the attention of the Assembly when the annual compensation for the Chairs of the Commission and the Advisory Committee fell below the level of the compensation of Assistant Secretaries-General, but no sooner than at its sixty-third session, and decided that that procedure would replace the requirement for future five-year comprehensive reviews outlined in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/35). Subsequently, a report was submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-third session (A/63/354). By its decision 63/550 B, the Assembly decided, however, to defer consideration of the matter to its sixty-fourth session. The same report was therefore submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, but no action was taken.

5. Subsequently, the General Assembly took up the matter at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, considering a report on the subject (A/65/676). The Assembly concurred with the recommendations and conclusions of the Advisory Committee, including putting in place an adjustment mechanism for the annual net compensation of the three officials (see A/65/767). In its resolution 65/268, the Assembly decided that the annual net compensation of the three officials should be subject to a cost-of-living adjustment equivalent to the annual change in the midpoint net base salary of the most senior officials in the Secretariat, namely the Under-Secretaries-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General.

6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/192, the pensionable remuneration of the full-time members of the Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee is also adjusted at the same time and by the same percentage as that used to adjust their annual compensation.

7. The elements of the conditions of service and compensation, other than the annual net compensation (and, by default, the post-retirement benefits), of the three officials are subject to review every four years.

8. Accordingly, the Secretary-General wishes to refer to the two previous reports (A/63/354 and A/65/676) and to update the information provided therein. To facilitate that process, the present report is divided into four sections: compensation (special allowance), other conditions of service, financial implications and the next comprehensive review.

III. Compensation (special allowance)

9. The amount of the special allowance payable to the Chairs of the Commission and the Advisory Committee in recognition of their added responsibilities was last revisited in 2000 and established at $10,000 per annum by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/238. No change to the level of the allowance is proposed at this time.

IV. Other conditions of service

10. No change is proposed to the manner of application of other conditions of service of the full-time members of the Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee at this time. These other entitlements are listed in the annex to the present report.

V. Financial implications

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 65/268, approved the restoration of the relativity relating to the annual net compensation and the post-retirement benefits of the full-time members of the Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Additional requirements prompted by the adjustment mechanism for the annual net compensation of these three officials are seen as relating to inflationary adjustments and would therefore be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

VI. Next comprehensive review

12. In accordance with the decision on this matter taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/268, the next comprehensive review will be undertaken at the seventy-second session of the Assembly.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The General Assembly is invited to take note of the present report.**

Annex

Conditions of service and compensation of the full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions are entitled to the following conditions of service and compensation:

(a) Annual (net) salary of $215,162 (as at June 2013);

(b) For the Chairs of the Commission and the Advisory Committee only: special annual allowance (not subject to interim adjustments based on movements in the cost-of-living index) of $10,000;

(c) Retirement benefits: in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/131, the officials concerned became participants in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund under supplementary article B of the Regulations of the Fund;

(d) Pensionable remuneration of $279,646 (as at June 2013);

(e) Coverage for illness, injury or death attributable to service with the United Nations under the provisions of the compensation plan initially authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 458 (V) and the rules promulgated by the Secretary-General governing such compensation, the latest revision of which (ST/SGB/103/Rev.1) was approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/233;

(f) Subsistence allowance when conducting official business travel away from Headquarters;

(g) The same travel entitlements as apply to other members of the Committee and the Commission, as contained in the rules governing payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations (ST/SGB/107/Rev.6), upon appointment and upon end of appointment;

(h) Removal of personal and household effects upon appointment and upon end of appointment, in accordance with rules 7.15 and 7.16 of the Staff Rules;

(i) Education grant: in paragraph 2 of its resolution 40/256, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/39/7/Add.1), thereby entitling the full-time members of the Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the reimbursement of the actual cost of educating their eligible dependent children, subject to specialized conditions and the same ceilings applicable to the education grant for eligible staff in the Professional and higher categories, and the payment of travel expenses for one round-trip journey per year per child from the place of scholastic attendance outside the United States of America to New York;

(j) Assignment grant, in accordance with the provisions of ST/AI/2012/1: by its resolution 45/249, the General Assembly approved new provisions for the payment of the installation grant (the grant was not payable to the incumbents at

that time and is applicable to their successors only if they were not residing at the duty station at the time of their appointment);

(k) Home leave, in accordance with rule 5.2 of the Staff Rules: the United Nations defrays the costs for travel to the home country for a specified number of occasions during a four-year term of office;

(l) Compensation to survivors in the event of death during service (comprising a lump sum equivalent to one month of the annual compensation of the official per year of service, subject to a minimum of three months and a maximum of nine months);

(m) Option to join the Headquarters medical insurance scheme upon payment of the full cost of the premium.

2. The full-time members of the Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee are not entitled to the following conditions of service:

(a) Dependency allowance;

(b) Rental subsidy;

(c) Representation allowance;

(d) Commutation of accrued annual leave upon separation;

(e) Repatriation grant.